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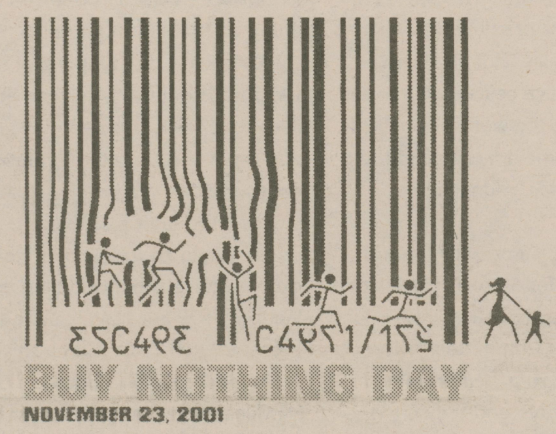
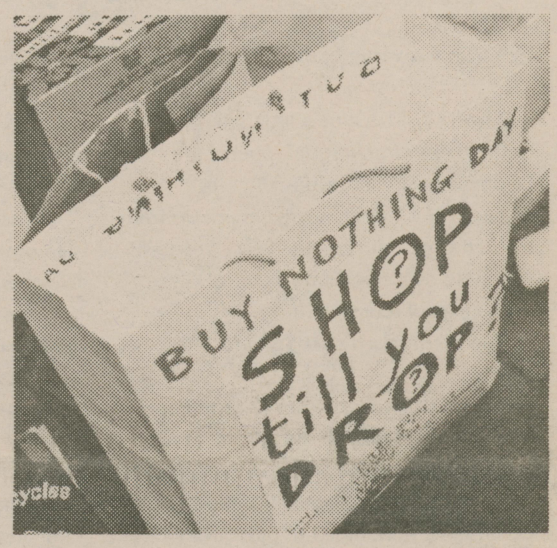
BUY NOTHING DAY





On November 23rd, typically the busiest shopping day of the year, buy nothing activists hit the streets and mall food courts to disrupt Victoria's "buyological urge."

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Forum addresses health – anal and otherwise

by Lorna Mace

The Men's Wellness Program, a part of AIDS Vancouver Island, hosted a community forum titled "Up Yours: What's to know about anal health? (Get the hole story)," on Nov. 23.

The forum featured Dr. Doug McGhee, a Victoria family practitioner and was hosted by the stars of "Drag Queen Bingo," Geena Smirnoff and Irma La Douche. The night was intended to teach men, and a few women, everything they wanted to know about anal health.

"Anytime we free ourselves of fear and silence as a gay community, or as a marginalized community, we contribute to the [end of] that marginalization," McGhee said.

After the murder of 41-year-old Aaron Webster in Stanley Park last week, forums like "Up Yours" are needed to raise awareness about homosexuality, said Jim Oliver, outreach worker for AIDS Vancouver Island.

Webster's murder is said to be B.C.'s first recorded hate crime involving a homosexual.

"I think it's really important that despite things like this, we keep coming together as a community," said Oliver.

Oliver also said AIDS Vancouver Island and the Victoria Police are working on providing a forum to address safety, violence and self-defense issues in the community.

One of the focuses of "Up Yours" was to address the fear and ignorance towards sex and homosexuality.

"In general, there's a lot of fear associated with queer people, and there's a lot of fear around anal sex. [It's important to] dissipate these ideas," said Kathryn Saunders, a member of Sexy, a support group for questioning gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual youth and their allies. "Up Yours" focused on freeing the queer community of the taboos, fears and lack of knowledge surrounding anal sex.

"People need to realize that sex is our right, and it should be fun," said April of Victoria's "Bleeding Rose," the only queer and fetish adult store in the Pacific Northwest.

While the forum concentrated on the mandate that anal sex should be enjoyable, it also stressed the importance of knowledge and safety.

"Any education around our health...is going to be very helpful, especially around anal sex. There are too many taboos," said Saunders.

The forum unabashedly talked about all anal issues from anatomy, problems such as hemorrhoids and fissures, prostate anatomy, sexually transmitted diseases and anal pleasure. Props for the anatomy discussion included inner tubes and balloons. In order to break the barriers of shyness, members of the audience were encouraged to stand up and ask a stranger questions about anal health, including: "Where's the colon? Where's the prostate?" and "What happens if someone has anal warts but delays treatment?"

McGhee covered the medical topics and questions, while Jim Kirk, prostate guru, gave the audience a humorous look at the prostate's importance and involvement in an aging male's life.

Oliver discussed anal pleasures and "first time" issues such as relaxation and escalation.

Despite the wisecracks and jokes that were involved in the forum, there was an equal amount of serious discussion involving health, wellness and awareness.

"Up Yours" discussed a subject that tends to be avoided and all speakers involved were frank and unapologetic.

"Any time we educate ourselves, we empower ourselves," said McGhee."

Landmine issue brought home at university exhibit

by Kevin Groves

The world just became a little safer thanks to the UVic community's support for a landmine awareness project.

Earlier this month nearly 38 photos from the Red Cross "Survive the Peace" contest were sold over three days in the SUB's Michele Pujol room.

The event raised over $600 for the charity.

Displayed under the headings of hope, inspiration and despair, the photo contest was co-sponsored by UVic's Red Cross Club and the Red Cross Global Education Committee. It intended to raise awareness about landmine issues and money for landmine survivors.

"We consider the results to be pretty wonderful, and we'd like to thank UVic students for their support," said Tara Douglas, a spokesperson for the Coastal Red Cross.

Douglas said about 500 people attended the show over its run and one of the photos was sold for $25.

Douglas said that the Red Cross will use the money raised for emergency medical care rehabilitation, including prosthetic limbs, and reintegrating landmine survivors into their communities.

"Aside from North America and Australia, the globe is pretty well covered in landmines," Douglas said. She has a world map in her office covered in a forest of pushpins marking the world's minefields.

Other Red Cross members agreed there is an ongoing need for landmine awareness.

"Landmines have a long shelf life and can stay in the field for 50 to 100 years or more," said Emily Hawkins, a volunteer for the Global Education Committee. "More than half the people who step on mines are women and children and they often can't support themselves after the mine detonates."

Douglas added the issues raised by the contest were even more timely given the continuing war in Afghanistan, which remains one of the most heavily mined countries in the world.

"Many of the food packets that are currently being dropped by American planes are landing in mined areas, which is exacerbating the crisis there," Douglas said.

But other sources within the Red Cross noted the contest was planned before September 11 and intended to address landmine issues globally.

"[With] the recent events, the role of landmines on civilian populations will come into play," said Ryan Russell, a member of the UVic Red Cross Club who organized the photo contest. "We feel that this is an issue that needs to be continually addressed and kept in the public consciousness."

The UVic Red Cross Club plans to follow up the photo contest with a food and clothing drive and a colouring contest in January. They are also planning numerous events for Red Cross Month this March.

As for the Global Education committee, Hawkins said it will continue to make presentations to middle and high school students on international issues.

"We'll continue to raise awareness about landmines. Eventually, we'd like to see them banned," Hawkins said.

In January 1996 Ottawa placed a moratorium on the production, use, stockpiling and transfer of landmines. By October of that same year a strategy was developed for a global ban on their use.

In December 1997 a comprehensive anti-personnel mine ban was signed by 122 countries. The number has now risen to 140 but the United States has still not signed. According to Red Cross statistics, someone in the world steps on a landmine every 22 minutes.

photo by Darren Stewart

Jaime Matten serves macaroni and cheese, the traditional starving student food, to UVic students at the student soup kitchen in the SUB on Nov. 27. The student society sponsored the event to discuss the tuition freeze review being conducted by the provincial government, and raise awareness about the Feb. 6 student mobilization.

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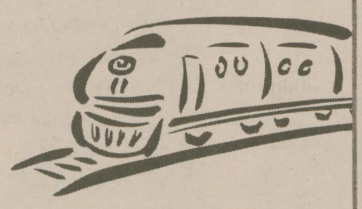

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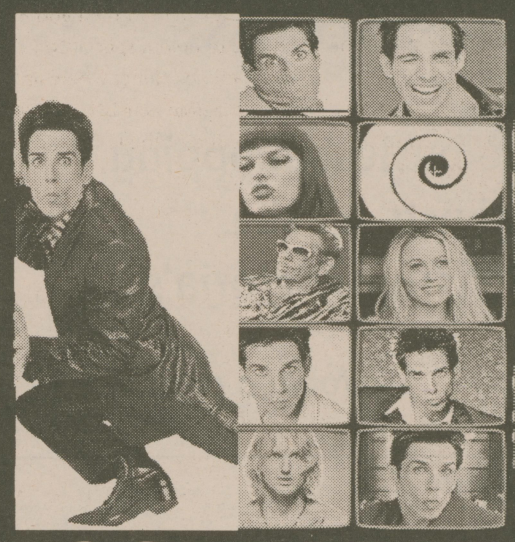

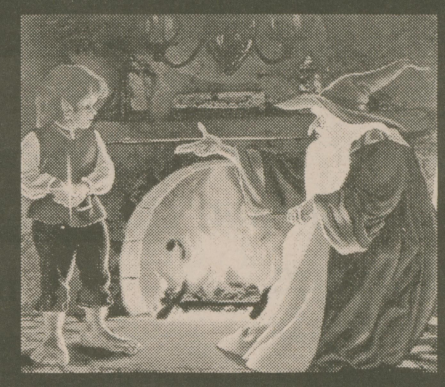

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Global event aims to educate shoppers

by Brodie Waddell

Victoria's Buy Nothing Day protesters came out in force Nov. 23 to afternoon events that included street theatre, an anti-consumerism scavenger hunt and a large potluck in the Eaton Centre food court.

"We just asked ourselves: 'What could we do that would be fun for the participants, but still get the message out?'" said David Ball, one of the event's organizers.

The Victoria event was part of a collection of Buy Nothing Day shopping moratoriums that have spread across the globe since the concept was created nine years ago by the founders of Vancouver based Adbusters Magazine. The day corresponds with what is typically one of the biggest shopping days in North America – the day after Thanksgiving in the US and the beginning of Christmas shopping season. Ball said there were two reasons for the local and international events.

> We need to show you can have a great time without shopping.
>
> *David Ball, Buy Nothing Day event organizer*

"First, we want to make people aware of how they shop," he said. "People have to ask questions about whether they really need it or if it was made by sweatshop labour, for example. Second, we need to show you can have a great time without shopping."

Another protester, who asked that his name not be used, dedicated the potluck to peace.

"When George Bush...made it our patriotic duty to go out and spend money he also made not spending money a method of publicly resisting his vengeful war," he said.

The protest began at Bastion Square with a dramatization on the infectious nature of consumerism. The effect of advertising on the user was displayed by a wide variety of ad slogans pulled from the main character's head during a fake brain surgery.

The event continued with a political scavenger hunt during which participants were sent to complete a list of tasks. The missions ranged from loudly deconstructing evangelical titles in Chapters' 'Business' section to inspecting the tags of Eaton's clothing for items produced by countries known for lax labour standards.

It ended with a potluck dinner in the Eaton Centre food court where a number of curious shoppers stopped to see what was going on.

"The potluck was a great idea and I'll definitely come back next year," said Jennifer Mulyk-Cleroux, a Reynolds High School student who noticed the potluck while shopping downtown. "Events like these should happen more often."

During the scavenger hunt, a 7-11 cashier broke down after being repeatedly questioned about the sexist messages in some prominently featured magazines.

Afterwards she said the problem was mostly the attention placed on her by a New VI camera crew filming the event.

Local Buy Nothing Day events happened in 44 countries this year including Germany, the Netherlands, Mexico and Japan.

photo by Horia Coman

Organizer David Ball addresses buy nothing activists in Downtown Victoria Friday.

Reflections from the NDP convention

by Ben Isitt

Martlet reporter, UVic grad student and Victoria street activist Ben Isitt travelled to Winnipeg last week for the New Democratic Party's annual convention. In the heated debates about the future of the left he found something totally unexpected: Optimism.

In last November's federal election, the New Democratic Party received a mere eight per cent of the popular vote and secured only 13 of the 301 seats in the House of Commons.

Last May in B.C. the party was reduced from government to two seats. In the 1990s the party went from power to defeat in Ontario and the Yukon. Only in Manitoba does the NDP have a majority government (the party forms a coalition with the Liberals in Saskatchewan).

To many, the NDP is a dying party that long ago fell from its position as the "conscience of Canada." Young people these days are marching in the streets from Quebec to Kananaskis in their bid to challenge corporate capitalism. To them parliamentary politics is distant, flawed and irrelevant and it offers them little hope.

But in Winnipeg last weekend I saw the seeds of a brighter future.

I was born in Winnipeg in 1978, and nine years after migrating to the coast, I returned to the city of my birth to agitate for the New Politics Initiative (NPI).

The NPI was founded by Vancouver Member of Parliament Svend Robinson and Canadian Auto Workers economist Jim Stanford last June and has as its goal the creation of a new political party, radical in policy, democratic in structure and linked to environmentalism and the burgeoning movement against corporate globalization.

Despite its name and its clear distinction from the parties of business (be they Liberal, Conservative, or the Canadian Alliance), the NDP has its own problems with internal democracy. Party hacks seem more interested in their jobs than in building democratic socialism in Canada. Trade union leaders, alienated from their rank and file members, often use their block votes within the party as an achor against progressive change.

NDP leader Alexa McDonough voices moderation and huddles toward the centre of the political spectrum while her party drifts into oblivion at a time when a clear voice is desperately needed to challenge the belief that the dollar is God.

And so I found myself in Winnipeg on Friday, Nov. 22.

The convention opened with a heated debate on the party's internal renewal process. The NPI supporters railed against capitalism and called for the party to return to its radical roots under a new banner. More moderate NDPers called for change within the NDP tent.

That night over 300 convention delegates held a special meeting to rally for the NPI. There was a profound spirit of optimism in the room.

> In Winnipeg I saw street activists like myself, committed to the anarchist principle of participatory community organization, for some reason working within an NDP structure they knew was corrupt yet could not be ignored.

The next day Svend Robinson led the debate on the NPI resolution, urging delegates to reject the "mushy middle" of the political spectrum. A young woman from Ontario spoke in favour of the NPI and the mood of the convention hall seemed to shift.

The NPI supporters waved placards, adorned themselves with face paint and streamers, and bellowed creative chants and songs. One woman from Nelson, B.C., even graced the convention floor wearing only an NPI banner.

Labour delegates twice called the question on the motion but lost the votes and debate was extended. For a moment it appeared the NDP would be allowed to die and a new, radical electoral voice built.

But in a rousing speech, Manitoba MP Bill Blaikie rallied delegates behind the party banner. He countered Robinson, asking if it was the "mushy middle" for the party "to oppose the war in Afghanistan" or fight for national housing and childcare programs. By the end of his speech many delegates had risen to their feet to the chant of "NDP, NDP, NDP!"

The tide had turned. When the vote was finally taken, 401 delegates voted for the NPI with 684 opposed. The next day, Alexa McDonough was re-elected leader by over 80 per cent of convention delegates, myself included.

A part of me is disappointed the NPI resolution failed. I thought a new party could reinvogorate the left, infuse a sense of energy, urgency and hope into a party wallowing in the depths of stagnation. The anger and militancy in Quebec last April has found no electoral outlet and a new generation of activists are ceding parliamentary terrain (where so many important decisions are made) to corporate gangsters like Jean Chretien.

But another part of me is profoundly optimistic about the prospects for change in Canada. In Winnipeg I saw street activists like myself, committed to the anarchist principle of participatory community organization, for some reason working within an NDP structure they knew was corrupt yet could not be ignored.

The NPI held a final meeting after the convention had adjourned. Provincial caucuses were formed and a decision was made to hold a special NPI convention in Calgary next June, where anti-corporate globalization activists are expected to protest a meeting of the G-8 in Kananaskis.

The radical left is far from dead within the NDP. Indeed, Winnipeg marked its reemergence for the first time since the epulsion of the 'Waffle' in the 1970s, where, like the NPI, 37 per cent of delegates voted to radicalize the party.

But unlike the Waffle, NPI supports seem determined to organize for victory at the NDP's next convetion, which is two years away. Whether the rest of the left in Canada will wait remains to be seen.

Society to make long-term financial plans

by Kevin Groves

The University of Victoria Students' Society formed a task force to address its whopping $764, 600 debt and make some long-term financial plans.

The group will work over the next few months and report back to UVic students at the society's spring AGM in early February. Four UVSS directors and three senior SUB business managers will form the task force.

Jonas Gifford, UVSS Director of Finance, said creating the task group was the next logical step for the society after short-term decisions were made to suspend Vertigo operations and fire Doug Ausman as SUB General Manager.

"Prior to this, we've used stopgap measures," Gifford said. "It's time to start looking at the bigger picture, and [right now] a comprehensive financial plan does not exist."

The society decided that non-elected society members wouldn't sit on the task group.

"We are accountable to the membership and that is the role that the directors should play," said UVSS Chair Jaime Matten.

Now that the task group is struck, two upcoming meetings are planned where a long-term financial strategy will be hammered out. At the first meeting, the business department managers will again review last year's financial figures and make recommendations accordingly.

Gifford added it would be some time before the society would be in the black again and emphasized that difficult decisions will have to be made. Raising membership fees may be one area the task group will consider.

"Five years would be ambitious and ten years would be longer than I would like," Gifford said. "If we look at our fees, we'll ask questions like if they're too much or too little, and what they should cover."

The society's finance committee will meet Nov. 30 to discuss the future of Vertigo, which accounted for $143 400 of the total deficit from last fiscal year.

Gifford said the society hopes to eventually find outside agencies that are willing to rent the space out for their own events. He added that it's obvious from past performance that the society is not qualified to run a nightclub.

"It's a cut throat business and we obviously don't have the expertise to compete in it as a society," he said.

The club has never turned a profit for the UVSS but Gifford said they will keep it as a nightclub.

"We don't have the resources to change the space right now so we hope to work with what we have," he said.

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Student papers face advertising woes this year

by David Ball

Faced with substantial losses in advertising revenues, student newspapers have been forced to cut several pages of content this year.

Since September *the Martlet* has had its income from advertising slashed by $10,000, almost all of this because of lower sales from Campus Plus, a national advertiser for campus papers.

Lisa Helps, managing editor of *the Martlet*, is concerned that Campus Plus is not doing its job as well as it could.

"Our budget line [for national advertising] is $10,000 below what it was last year," Helps said. "That's substantial."

Since the start of the school year, three issues of *the Martlet* had only 16 pages, when the newspaper typically runs 20 to 24. In the smaller issues, *the Martlet* run fewer national news stories from the Canadian University Press (CUP) wire service and will hold more stories from issue to issue.

"The number of ads generally determines the number of pages," said *Martlet* news editor Kevin Groves.

But Groves added *the Martlet* will run more pages if the editorial staff feel there is good reason to, even if there are ads for only 16 pages. He pointed toward the October 25 issue where the Martlet ran several pages of copy without ads.

"In that issue we had lots of good copy on the SUB scandal and a long wire story on Sunera Thobani, so we ran more pages," Groves said. "Our advertising does not decide on the number of pages we can run, the quality of the copy does."

The Nexus, Camosun College's student newspaper, is facing similar advertising woes, according to managing editor Barbara Risto.

"Last year we were averaging four to five ads per issue," Risto said. "This time it's been one or two ads." *The Nexus*, like *the Martlet*, also relies on Campus Plus to sell national advertising. This year, *The Nexus'* advertising revenues have fallen substantially. The fourth issue of *The Nexus*, for instance, dropped from $800 last year to $70 in advertising this year, all of this from Campus Plus, which handles national advertising for many campus newspapers in Canada.

Robert May, executive director of Campus Plus, says the recent economic downturn is largely to blame for his agency's lack of success in attracting advertisers.

"Everybody's saying we're in a recession," May said. "Companies have pulled back and advertising is the first thing that goes. Many of the factors are beyond our control."

Campus Plus business itself was down 20 per cent in September, said May, and the events of September 11 only worsened these problems.

However, May suggested that *the Martlet's* policy of boycotting advertising from certain companies is also to blame for lost revenues.

"Before you draw conclusions, you have to look at the boycotts," he said. "*The Martlet* has the largest list of boycotts of any student paper in Canada."

The Martlet's advertising boycott policy prevents advertising from 185 companies and organizations, on reasons ranging from damaging environmental practices to human rights abuses. Like student newspapers across B.C. *the Martlet* also boycotts advertising from tobacco companies. This has resulted in "an enormous drop in revenue," said May.

Darren Stewart, The Martlet's editor, disputes May's belief that the boycott policy had anything to do with lost advertising revenues this year as compared to last year.

"I don't give any credence to them blaming our ad boycott policy for their troubles," said Stewart. "We've always had a progressive ad boycott policy and we've never faced these kinds of troubles before."

Unlike *the Martlet*, *The Nexus* newspaper has kept its issues at 20 pages, despite poor advertising revenues. Advertising directors at both newspapers say their local advertising has not dropped nearly as much as the national advertising from Campus Plus.

Local advertising is down between five and ten per cent, according to Meesha Chan, *the Martlet's* advertising director. Some advertisers have made their ads smaller, or advertise less frequently to cut back on costs.

The Martlet has also lost advertising from several local sources and a September decision by *Martlet* editors to not carry insert advertising has caused at least four local advertisers to stop advertising with *the Martlet*, because they had already printed their inserts and decided not to submit print ads. *The Martlet* enacted its no-insert policy for environmental reasons, said Chan, because the inserts were known to fall and litter campus grounds.

The Ubyssey, UBC's student newspaper, has faced similar advertising problems, said Duncan McHugh, the Ubyssey's coordinating editor.

"Our paper has suffered quite a bit," he said. "It's deeply frustrating. Suddenly you can't get as many stories in."

The Ubyssey has had to cut back its twice-weekly paper by about 25 per cent, much of this because advertisers are taking out smaller ads. Unlike *the Martlet* and *The Nexus*, *The Ubyssey* does not get national ads from Campus Plus.

Recycling on campus ends up in the dump

by Bryna Hallam

Up to 90 per cent of contents of recycling bins on campus may be winding up in Hartland Landfill.

Contamination of the bins' contents are to blame. The presence of anything not meant for the bin constitutes contamination. This includes both other recyclable items and non-recyclable items. When a bin contains more than three per cent contamination, the contents are often thrown out.

"It's very frustrating," said Sarah Webb, the UVSS Director of Academics. "We live in a place where recycling is a way of life. It should be a snap."

Once contaminated the bins are either given to Environmental Techonologies Ltd. for recycling, or carted off to Hartland Landfill. It is estimated that 9 out of 10 bins are thrown into the garbage.

If any recyclable material is found in the garbage when a Canadian Waste Management truck arrives at Hartland Landfill, there is a $100 fine for each type of item found. These fines are passed on to the university. Because there are a number of different types of recyclable materials, multiple fines are possible in each load.

According to CUPE staff, there used to be someone employed by the university to sort the recycling bins but the job disappeared. They also said that they would be willing to have someone in the job, if the money was allocated.

Jennifer Mutch, one of the University of Victoria Sustainability Project (UVSP) coordinators, believes that long-term solutions include educating people and creating better signage for the bins. "I believe the most important issue is short term," she said. "Stop throwing thousands of bins of recycling in the garbage."

The university has bins set up for recycling paper, glass, plastics and aluminum. Most bins are labelled as to what goes in them. A quick look in any of the bins around campus shows that much more goes in than what is intended. Many of the bins contain garbage, other recyclable materials, and food.

Both the UVSP and the Environmental Education Committee in the SUB are working on ways to address the issue. The committee is planning a multi-media public awareness campaign set to begin in late November. The UVSP is doing in-depth research on the topic.

Any initiatives taken will involve clear labels for the recycling bins and will stress the importance of recycling.

York union planning to leave CFS

by Alain Mercieca

TORONTO (CUP) – The student association at York University will hold a referendum next March to gauge whether students there wish to continue to hold membership in the national lobby group the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

Steve Yamada, vice-president of external affairs for the York Federation of Students (YFS), said his organization would have an easier time enacting policy without national affiliation and said preserving allegiances with other universities would still be possible without CFS.

He added the $151,000 that York students pay to CFS every year "does not balance in representation."

Yamada also made reference to a situation three years ago in which the YFS sought legal council to terminate a CFS-administered student health plan, citing alleged mismanagement and opted to run the program itself.

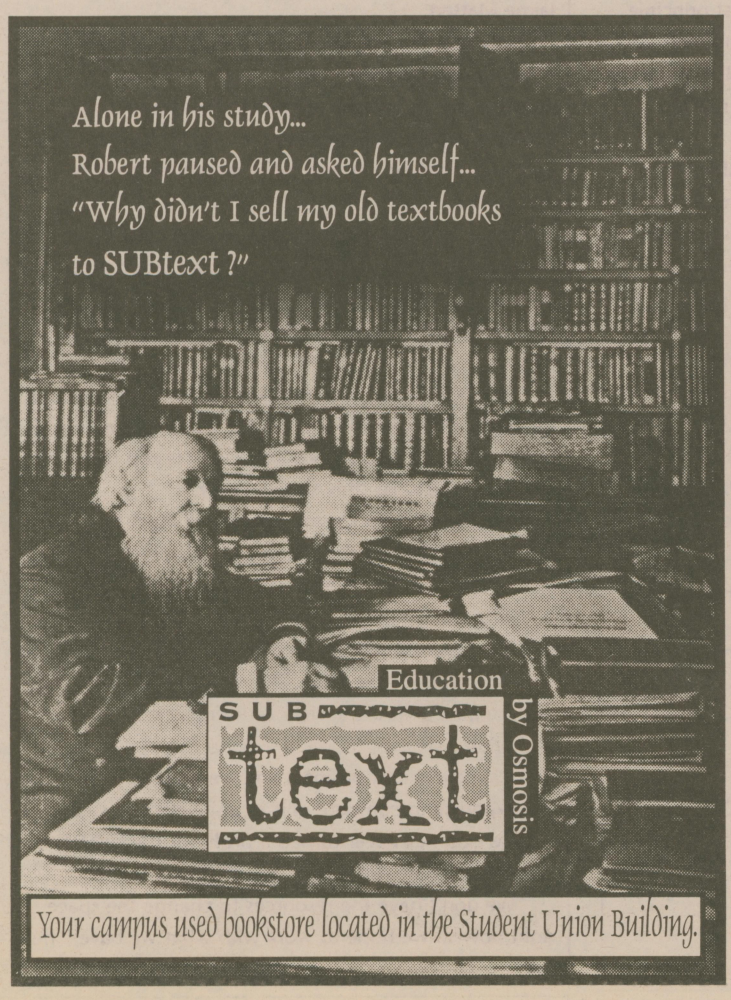
Joel Duff, Ontario chair of the CFS, said allegations regarding the health plan are "unfounded and based on misinformation."

Duff said the CFS has tried to work with YFS to sort out their differences but maintains the YFS has refused.

Yamada also criticized the CFS for its campaigns against sweatshop labour and trade liberalization. He said the CFS should be spending more time on explicitly education-related issues, adding the national group's current mandate is "spreading issues too thinly."

Duff, however, said keeping close watch on liberalized international trade is imperative in protecting colleges and universities from deals he believes "threaten the quality of our public system of education."

The CFS represents some 400,000 post-secondary students across Canada.



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American grocery chain dumps GE food

by Jeremy Nelson

TORONTO (CUP) – The shelves of a major North American grocery chain will soon be wiped clear of genetically engineered food, providing crucial ammunition to Canadians demanding retailers like IGA and Loblaws to label or remove genetically engineered food.

"They say it's impossible; that it's too expensive and it will confuse consumers, but Trader Joe's making this commitment shows it is clearly possible to remove GE from stores in North America," said Pat Venditti of Greenpeace.

Trader Joe's, a U.S. chain of more than 200 grocery stores operating in 15 states, has vowed to make its house brand GE-free in one year. The house brand is analogous to Canadian brands like President's Choice or No Name and accounts for 85 per cent of Trader Joe's sales.

Venditti says a major chain reaction is triggered when a large retailer stops selling GE food. When the packagers of the food receive word that GE food is being phased out, they have to comply or risk losing shelf space. They in turn pass along directions to their farmers not to plant GE crops next year.

"It couldn't happen in a week but certainly in a season or two it's possible to remove GE foods," said Venditti, adding he has letters from European grocery chains saying the change can be made without increased costs to consumers or producers.

Loblaws, Canada's largest grocery chain, refused an interview on genetic engineering and instead issued a brief statement saying the company supports voluntary labeling of genetically engineered products.

"Canadians have one of the safest, most wholesome and nutritious food supplies in the world," the letter begins.

"Loblaws Supermarkets carry only biotechnology products which have been approved by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Since they are considered safe, no labeling of these food products is required by law."

The letter goes on to say "we very much support your right to information about where your food comes from" and refers consumers to information from "displays, sampling, point-of-sale and suppliers' 1-800 numbers." It also lists the Health Canada Web site and that of the International Food Information Council.

Despite these safety assurances from grocery stores and government, surveys have consistently found that 90 per cent of Canadians want food labeled and two-thirds would not buy the products were they given the choice. It was this consumer pressure, coupled with an aggressive campaign by Greenpeace targeting Trader Joe's, which eventually led to the new policy.

"What we hear from our customers is they would prefer to have [their food] made without genetically engineered ingredients," said Trader Joe's spokesperson Pat St. John.

Venditti says this fits with the European model where it took a few grocery chains to shift policy before governments decided to institute mandatory labeling.

Greenpeace, and other watchdog organizations like the Council of Canadians, plan to continue their pressure on Loblaws to remove GE products or enact mandatory labeling.

While public health concerns surrounding the lack of long-term testing of genetically engineered foods are reasonably well known, environmentalists worry most people are not aware of the major effects these products could have on the environment. Their concerns include:

Pesticide use: Most genetically engineered plants contain DNA from pesticides, which makes them resistant to strong pesticides that would kill non-GE plants. There are concerns that because of the strength of these pesticides they will have negative effects on plant and animal life over the long-term as they leach into the soil and waterways.

Super pests: Because of their strong pesticide resistance, these crops have been shown to take a large amount of pesticide to kill. Were they to overproduce to an extent that they needed to be controlled it would be difficult to stop them without apply such a large amount of pesticide that it could have serious environmental effects.

Crop diversity: In many areas crops have developed to suit particular conditions. Mexico has multiple strains of corn that have developed over thousands of years, and each of these better resist certain pests and are better equipped to grow in certain climates. This diversity provides a stable ecosystem and food supply which could be threatened by GE crops cross-pollinating and eliminating crop diversity.

Unknown genes: While GE crops routinely use DNA from other crops and even animals, according to Greenpeace, tests on some GE products have revealed unknown DNA -- DNA that is neither from the original soy bean nor the added DNA. Like the DNA itself, the long term effects of this mystery DNA are unknown.

Testing: Environmentalists are also concerned that genetically-engineered crops are not tested in closed environments but rather in open fields, further increasing the chance experimental crops could make their way into the natural environment. They are also worried about lack of long-term testing on the effects these products have on ecology and public health.

Shivering dogs a campus controversy

by Bryna Hallam

A number of dogs have been left outside campus buildings lately, leaving some to wonder about their fate as the weather gets colder.

The dogs are left outside while their owners tend to business inside the university. With winter on its way some people are left to wonder whether this is a safe practice for the animals.

According to the law an animal in distress is one which is deprived of adequate food, water or shelter; injured, sick, in pain or suffering; or abused and neglected.

When an animal is in distress, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) can intervene.

"It is certainly irresponsible pet ownership to let your dog wander around," said Christa Chadwick, adoption manager at the Victoria SPCA. Chadwick said that any animal left outside a campus building would technically be called a "stray" by the organization. Stray animals are picked up by animal control and impounded. Animals that are left outside are also at risk of being stolen, attacked by another animal or hit by a car.

Even if they are tied up, this can lead to a condition known as "boundary aggression," she said. This happens when dogs are tied up for long periods of time. They become increasingly aggressive and frustrated as a result of being tied up all of the time.

The SPCA strongly opposes chaining or tethering dogs.

If a dog is tethered, it must have free access to fresh food, water and a warm and dry shelter.

"Going for a day or a couple hours without food and [shelter], that's really not a big deal," said Chadwick. "But water, obviously, should be provided at all times." Being tied up, however, is only half of Chadwick's concerns.

"If it's a whole day and [the dog has] gone without shelter, and it's really cold, that could become a concern with frostbite with your short-haired dogs," said Chadwick. In addition, few dogs will be happy tied up in the rain all day.

Despite these concerns the SPCA cannot intervene on the basis of an animal's distress, like shivering, frostbite or whining.

"It is irresponsible pet ownership and a breach of the bylaw but it is not necessarily distress," said Chadwick.

But UVic dog owners feel there are few options for them and their pets.

"If I don't bring her [the dog] to school, then I have to leave her at home all day in my apartment," said a UVic dog owner who wished to remain anonymous because of fear of reprisals. "It doesn't seem fair to lock her up inside all day while I'm away."

Chadwick encourages students to wait until they have settled down and finished their studies before getting a pet.

ON THE SPOT

How do you see the future of the left in Canada?

compiled by Ruth Knoop and Horia Coman

Megan Angell
4th year psychology

I don't see it doing very well. I think that people have been brainwashed by the Liberal mentality. Joe Clark is doing an awful job.

Michael King
3rd year business

I don't actually give Canadian politics much thought. I am too busy doing my essays to worry about the state of politics. I have 15 more chapters to read before I start thinking about politics. I would rather sit and look at scenery than think about politics. Politics, to me, is necessary, but at the same time, it is a waste of time. Real life issues, like tuition, are more important than the state of a political party.

Heather Murray
3rd year engineering

I think that like any other thing to do with politics, it will go up and down over time.

Kim Coyle
4th year anthropology

It depends on the perspective.

Lindsay Hallot
5th year anthropology

I think they are going to make a big comeback and save our asses.

EDITORIAL

Mandiba the newest Canadian

In South Africa he is everywhere, despite the fact that he was locked away for 27 years. His face is synonymous with freedom and hope. His crinkle-eyed, beaming smile resonates in the soccer stadiums, on t-shirts, in school auditoriums and on mud-packed, tin-capped walls.

He is Nelson Mandela and now he is a Canadian citizen.

Last week the Canadian government made the first well-thought out move in a long time in honouring Madiba (his affectionate name back home), Africa's golden son and global freedom fighter, with honorary Canadian citizenship. In a brief, albeit powerful and controversial visit to Canada, Mandela and Graca Machal, his wife and partner in raising the profile of African human rights, raised almost $1 million for Nelson Mandela's Children's Fund, wiped tears from a young girl's face and received dual honorary degrees from Ryerson.

Amidst Mandela's school visits and citizenship ceremonies, questions about Canada's role in the international sphere were raised by sceptics and patriots alike. Where was Brian Mulroney for the occasion? Besides Meech Lake and Free Trade, perhaps one of the more poignant of the PC leader's actions in the 1980s was to impose sanctions on South Africa in a time when sanctions were most needed but internationally unpopular. Then there was Naomi Klein's column in the Globe and Mail last week pointing out the ironies of the fundraising gala attendees. Top CEOs and Bankers who invested in South Africa for the duration of the 40 year apartheid regime were now paying $5000 a pop to meet and greet a man whose imprisonment they sanctioned through their economics.

And of course there was the embarrassing debacle of Calgary Alliance MP Rob Anders, dodging Mandela's attempts to meet with him. 'I'm too busy,' Stockwell Day's spin doctor told him to say. Too busy to meet Mandela? In the spring when the motion was brought to the house by Liberal MP John McCallum that Mandela should be nominated for citizenship, Anders opposed, alleging that Mandela was both a terrorist and Communist. (Gasp!)

Details aside though, it is important to acknowledge why this man is now a fellow Canadian. In his acceptance speech he said, "The government of my country of birth did not regard or treat me as a citizen. In fact, the main energies of the state authorities of my country were directed towards the stripping of those like me – a majority of the population – from any vestiges of citizenship. We mention those facts not in rancour, but in celebration of how we have progressed as a country and in the world."

Dialogue. Forgiveness. Proper use of force. Socialist morals. Simplicity. Working alongside his adversaries, like F.W. de Klerk, his co-Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mandela's dignity and humility should be a lesson in citizenship for us all.

What's left for Canada

Just under a year ago I was drawn into an argument with three conservative Parliament Hill reporters in the days after the federal election. One reporter, a Southam staple on the hill for decades, was trying to convince me that the NDP would have taken 20 seats, maybe 30, rather than their paltry 13, if Svend Robinson was at the party helm rather than the waffly and vague Alexa McDonough. The others backed him up and asked me what I thought.

That's too many, I told them. They may have won a few more but do you really think Canada would be ready to dump Alexa for somebody like Svend? An openly gay street radical? An admittedly civilly disobedient rabble rouser?

But they argued firmly that people would have been ready for a change (though they chuckled and admitted they had voted Liberal). Canada is filled with progressive thinkers, they said. Much of the country has an open mind and would welcome a charismatic new leader.

The irony of this argument is illuminating given my status as the token student press regular in the press gallery last year, and their firm establishment in the old order of things on the hill. It is my peers – quick to dismiss the system as flawed and irrelevant – who will rally against that old order yet not drag their ass down to the polling station to cast their vote.

The election results from a few days before held few surprises and the Liberal old guard was back strong. And people in droves admitted that they had parked their vote, rather than cast it. It seems voting Canadians disliked the Alliance more than they liked the NDP. Joe Clark's Conservatives were just so passé. The Liberals then became the party "of conscience." This not only shows how flawed our current electoral system is but also how uninspiring the political left in our country is these days.

A few moths later legions of disgruntled anti-FTAAer's, willing to risk injury, arrest, death and cancer by carcinogenic tear gas, hit the streets in Quebec City to have their small voices heard. Yet only a fraction of them voted in the election because, for crying out loud, who would they vote for?

It may be a cliché by now to wonder what would happen if or when Svend himself actually leads a party, NDP, NPI or otherwise, into an election. But I think it raises an important question that has to be addressed (the sooner the better and at least in time for the next election).

Svend or no Svend, NPI or no NPI, the party on the left is dying fast. It must inspire all those looking to be inspired. It must find charismatic and firm leaders that can form a party to inspire the young and the radical, and draw together the passionate thinkers on campuses, in rural and urban areas, and in the unions, and bring them back into the political process.

This question may have been proposed in Winnipeg last weekend at the party's annual convention but it certainly wasn't resolved.

The left in Canada needs broad, sweeping and inclusive change. Fast.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 12:30 p.m. in SUB b110a. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write, write, write, gimme gimme gimme: **martlet@uvic.ca**

CANADIAN ALLIANCE PARTY
HI, COULD YOU TELL ROB ANDERS THAT NELSON MANDELA IS HERE TO SEE HIM?
I'M SORRY SIR. MR. ANDERS IS VERY BUSY. HE'S OUT SHOPPING.
BUY NOTHING DAY NOV. 23
JW

LETTERS

Credit due to Liberals

I am writing in regards to most student's reactions to the recent cuts imposed by the B.C. Liberal government. Recently the UVSS has been informed of a deficit from the last fiscal year of $311,400.

The ex-Sub General Manager, Doug Ausman, stated in the October 25 edition of *the Martlet* that, "I'm hoping we don't lose any staff, but I can't be a crystal ball. It is my wish that no one's job gets sacrified." Due to the previous council of the UVSS, we are now left with an unexpected deficit, almost the same type of situation that the previous NDP Government left the B.C. Liberal Government.

Now, what a philosophy, having to do cuts when such a deficit exists in order to decrease the probability of a future deficit. Yes, Mr. Ausman did state that he hopes not to lose any staff, but we cannot live in a picture perfect world. As much as the student society is depicting Gordon Campbell to be a CEO's best friends, he is looking towards the best interests of the province. The provincial government is not making these cuts with a light heart. And if there has ever been an example of a government caring for the better interests of the province, it is now staring us straight in the face.

These cuts; tax cuts, ministry cuts, are made in order to decrease a debt already left by the NDP.

So, please give credit where credit is due. And if you want to be an informed student and not so pessimistic, watch the tv broadcasted cabinet meetings and you might have a change of heart. Also, another philosophy not displayed by the NDP, letting the public know what exactly your government is doing.

Dallas Henault

***Martlet* lacks investigative affinities**

I would love to know whether *the Martlet* maintains an investigative mandate to pursue ethical issues surrounding the use of spaces or the sources of funds at UVic. If not, could you direct your readers to a body that does?

At issue is the recent (Nov 23) rental of the David Lam Auditorium to a group of 'spirit mediums' purporting to demonstrate a supernatural ability to speak to the dead. A large audience of hopefuls (mostly women, the primary target group for 'psychic' con games) each coughed up $30 to see a miracle, and perhaps get the chance to speak to loved ones missed desperately.

Many readers may believe such miracles are possible, and perhaps they are; however, there is no evidence that one has ever occurred...and we've looked HARD. Instead, investigators from Houdini onward have discovered con-men living parasitically off the tragedies of mourning mothers, daughters, and the otherwise vulnerable. Even parapyschologists reject mediumship.

So, what happened at UVic on Friday? Fraud, almost certainly. It is barely possible that the performers were deluded or, just maybe, speaking to the dead, but UVic administrators had no right to expect anything other than fraud, and made no effort to prevent it.

Nor did they have the ethical freedom to accept a portion of the proceeds for UVic's athletics program. Athletes at UVic may be unknowingly benifitting from one of the world's ugliest scams: ripping off the hopes, faith, and money of the suffering. If so, everyone – everyone who attends UVic, who has ever lost anyone and wanted them back, who hates watching women exploited – should be pissed right off. I am.

Daniel Loxton

BITCHY HOMO

No more romance...?

by Lindsey Froland

Lately, I've noticed something. My love life sucks. I look at myself and ask, "Are you really that ugly, Lindsey?" And I answer, "No, I don't think so, but maybe I should check the nearest mirror just in case I've turned into a frog." When I find that I'm NOT a frog, I kinda wonder. (I do wonder about the talking to myself part, but that's another diatribe...)

Last summer, I went on an incredible number of dates. Some guys, I liked, some I didn't. Some guys called me back the next day, some didn't, some I woke up with, but none of them ever wanted to continue any sort of relationship. Is it that gay men in this fair town all have the heebie-jeebies? Do I have some sort of plague that I don't know about?

I sat down and thought long and hard about the question of relationships and monogamy. And I realized that, well, to be honest, most of the guys I dated were (oh dear!) sluts. Plain and simple. Not that being a slut is a bad thing. In fact, it's becoming a reclaimed word, kind of like 'nigger' and 'fag.' But I want feeling. These guys don't want emotion; they want motion.

Where has all the romance gone on our society, gay and straight alike? (WARNING: Generalizations to follow, proceed with care). It seems like no one gives flowers anymore. No one treats me to dinner – it's always done "dutch." I haven't been on a date in the past 2 years where I wasn't expected to "put out" after a few drinks. No little kiss at the door and a call the next day to see when we can "get together again." No candlelight dinner, no movies, no feeling. It's all a big popularity contest – who can go out with the cutest guy, the richest guy, the guy with the biggest penis (or woman with the largest breasts). Victoria is chock full of horse-drawn carriages – let's make use of them!

I say we start a revolution, a romantic revolution! I don't mean renting Titanic for the millionth time and then getting it on while listening to the soundtrack. That is not my idea of romance. Celine Dion does NOT make me want to have sex in any way whatsoever. I want true romance – flowers for no reason! A goodbye kiss! A love letter! ANYTHING!

Our world seems to be driven by sex. Hey, I'm not arguing with that. Sex is in our nature and most of us obsess about it to some degree or another. But I don't want it to be the driving force in my relationships. I'm not an overnight fag. (Overnight fag, overnight bag, get it?). I want to be able to just hang out, grab a coffee. I want to go out for dinner, and not be expected to sleep with my date because he paid for the meal. I want to get a rose on our one month anniversary. I want cuddles and compliments. Sex is good, believe me. But there comes a point when it cannot be the only thing that keeps

continued on page 7

[2000/2001]
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UVic's Student Paper

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MONOLOGUE

Buy Nothing Day looks at deeper issues

by David Ball

Last Friday was Buy Nothing Day, a day to take a break from shopping and to reflect on consumer culture. But Buy Nothing Day goes deeper than just shopping. Much deeper in fact.

I helped organize Victoria's Buy Nothing Day events this year. More than 80 people came to a scavenger hunt downtown, followed by a free potluck in the food court of the Eaton Centre (see page 3).

When we planned the event, we had total fun in mind. Having a potluck dinner in the mall was one of the funniest things I have ever done. But the entire time I was thinking about issues extremely close to my heart.

I was thinking about the rise of sweatshops in the Majority World (what most people call the "Third World" but they are the majority of the world's people). I was thinking of how these factories, contracted by massive multinational corporations like Nike and Gap, employ people at wages too low for a family to live on. Who face physical, verbal and sexual harassment every day. Who are not allowed to form unions. Who scrape by in makeshift shanty-towns that now surround these so-called "Free Trade Zones." Why do these exist? They exist because of our voracious over-consumption here in the Minority World.

I was also thinking about the horrible environmental consequences of our overconsumption. Of rainforests destroyed, not only in Asia and Latin America, but also here in B.C. Of species lost forever because of habitat destruction. Of climate change. Why does this happen? It happens because of our voracious overconsumption here in the Minority World.

I was thinking about images I have seen, of people in Latin America who live their lives in monstrous garbage dumps, picking through the landfill, trying to survive on scraps they find. It's a new twist on "living off the land." Why does this happen? It happens because we in the Minority World are aggressively exporting our voracious overconsumption to the rest of the world.

I was thinking as well of the widespread human rights' violations by profit-hungry corporations like Shell, Talisman, Unocal and Chevron, who help military governments murder, rape and enslave innocent people and destroy their villages in order to secure the flow of oil to us. How can anyone do this? Because our voracious over-consumption here in the Minority World demands cheap energy from fuel.

Maybe you are thinking: "This is all so gloomy, so negative."

I agree. But sometimes we have to look the evils of this world in the face. If we do not confront our despair head-on, we can never change. People in the rich countries of the world – the top 20 per cent of the global population – consume 86 per cent of the resources. We are the problem.

I don't want to use this space to make you feel guilty. I'm not here to point my finger at you the consumer, you the car driver, or you the CEO. We all share collective responsibility for the problems of our world.

Perhaps, however, I can inspire you. Why did more than 80 people choose to come to our Buy Nothing Day events, to run around town with mock-shopping bags and make fools of themselves? This inspired me.

Why did one saleswoman in the mall thank us profusely, because every day she sees people wasting their lives and earnings buying useless things they don't need? Why did she ask us to come back every week? This inspired me, too.

But it was the high school students who inspired me the most. I wish they could all read this.

They came because they had heard about the events at a peace march the weekend before. Others had heard about it via email from friends. Many are very active in progressive campaigns, opposing the new $6 minimum wage for starting workers, and calling for an end to war.

It's funny how, in planning Victoria's Buy Nothing Day celebrations, we focused on sweatshops, the environment, human rights and community, but forgot about how consumerism affects teens. Teens who are primary targets of advertising. Teens who are told their bodies aren't good enough. Teens who are told endlessly that they need to purchase something to be complete, or to be popular. What does our consumer culture fail to teach them? It fails to teach that they are complete and wonderful as they are. That it is safe to be themselves.

We had to address this. So we performed a short play before the scavenger hunt.

The skit starts with me, the main character, standing in front of the crowd. I explain that I am worried about sweatshop labour, but sometimes I give in and buy sweatshop-made Gap pants because buying them makes me feel better. "What am I supposed to do?" I asked. "Why did I feel better from doing something I knew was wrong?"

In the skit, two friends tell me I need special surgery, to get to the root of my problem. And they proceed to pull a long string out of my nose. Out pops a large tag, attached to the string: "Everyone in Khakis." The string continues, to another tag: "Just do it." More tags: "My other car is a Budget"..."There's a little M in everyone"..."Always Coca-Cola"..."I am Canadian." I start to get frustrated, then worried. Why are these slogans in my head?

Suddenly the string being pulled out my nose comes to the "root" of my problem: a shoe box which pops out of my head. I sit down and begin to untie it. Inside, attached to the string, are four index cards.

I read them out, surrounded by a deep silence: "Am I worthy?"; "Do I deserve kindness?"; "Does anybody care?"; "Who am I?"

Fundamental questions. They have been replaced by advertising slogans, by profit-driven messages telling us what we need and how we should change.

I wish I could tell the youth who came how much they inspire me. I would thank them for being who they are. For being fearless. And for giving me hope – even faith – that the world will become a better place.

SOAPBOX

Army not banned, just unwelcome

by Ruth Knoop

Recently *the Martlet* reported that the UVSS held a board meeting where they decided to ban the military from the SUB ["UVSS bans Army from SUB," Nov. 22, 2001], with the exception of Career Fairs. But, due to a glitch in the editing process, the campus newspaper got it wrong.

Presently no policy has been implemented banning the military from the SUB, though, as Jaime Matten told *the Martlet*, the military has and will continue to receive a verbal denial of access to the SUB.

I find it funny that a school which prides itself on its integrity and freedom of speech, acts completely to the contrary. Only one person complained about the presence on campus. Does that mean if one person complains about this denial of access that the military will be allowed back into the SUB?

Of course not. There could be a petition signed by thousands of students stating that they want the military to be allowed back into the SUB, and it still would not be implemented. Banning or verbally denying access (whatever you want to call it) the military from the SUB is nothing more than censorship. If the UVSS truly believed their so-called freedom acts, they would give students the choice as to whether or not they want to be recruited, or even look at the military stand, instead of denying them access to it.

Why is it that the Canadian Military is welcomed and appreciated all over the world except at home? If you go to European countries like France or Holland, the citizens of those countries love the Canadian Forces. Why? Because Canada helped liberate these countries during World War II.

I understand that a lot of the discourse towards today's Canadian Forces comes from the pacifist viewpoint. People do not support the army because, as Andrew Klassen said in *the Martlet*'s article: "Going off and killing people is not productive."

It is ludicrous to assume that a person joins the military so that they can kill someone. People join to preserve the peace – that we, as Canadians, are so lucky to have in our country. The army aims to lessen the oppression of the people who cannot fend for themselves. Unfortunately, sometimes war and death are involved.

However, people seem to be forgetting what the Canadian Forces is notorious for around the world – peacekeeping. As well, I bet barely any of you know that one of the Canadian Forces' main agendas in Canada is Aid to Civil Power. That's right. The military's purpose is not to kill people. Remember the Red River floods? The military was there assisting civilians. And what about the blizzard of '96, who was there helping people out? The military. Do not forget the Quebec ice storm of '98. Once again the main people assisting in that were military personnel. And the list goes on. But I bet the UVSS never thought of that when they decided to verbally deny the military access to the SUB.

Speaking of that, does that mean that the students on campus, who are part of the military are no longer welcome in the SUB, except during the career fair?

The present-day attitude held by students towards the CF is saddening. These people give up their lives to protect each and everyone of you and preserve your freedom of speech, yet instead of gratitude and appreciation, they get banned from government-funded institutions.

Here is a little reminder for the UVSS by Father Dennis Edward O'Brien:

It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of press.

It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who gives us freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier who salutes the flag,
who serves beneath the flag,
and whose coffin is draped by the flag,
who allows the protester to burn the flag.

I hope that Jaime Matten and the UVSS remember that next time they decide to speak and act out negatively against the Canadian Forces.

continued from page 6

people together. In my experience, that never works. Or maybe I've just been looking for something that people my age aren't usually looking for.

Whatever it is, I wish that someone would ask me out on a date. Or send me flowers. Or take me out to dinner. Sex isn't a mystery anymore for me. But I've never had romance. That's the REAL mystery.

Bitchy Homo *is an opinion section in which members and/or supporters of UVic's queer community can discuss issues affecting queer people. Submissions are subject to our usual policies regarding racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise oppressive content (i.e. they can't have any) and should be between 300 and 800 words long. They can be dropped off at the office (SUB B011) or emailed to martlet@uvic.ca.*

Changing your perspective on poverty

The government cuts welfare funding while hunger is on the increase in Victoria. Hunger is everybody's business – we all need to work together to decrease the numbers.

by Heather Neale

Morning breakfast rituals are sacred.

That first cup of coffee – cream, no sugar – and a cranberry muffin – low fat if possible – is essential for a good start to your day. There is simple pleasure and safety in this.

In a volatile world fraught with war and disease, the one thing you can rely on is breakfast, right?

Wrong.

There are people who do not get the luxury of deciding between cane sugar and Sweet 'n' Low. There are people who would have savoured the bagel you left half eaten on the cafeteria tray. There are people who don't know the sensation of a full stomach on which to start the day.

These people are not halfway around the world either; they are right here in Victoria.

One coffee at $1.55, plus one muffin at $0.79 per day works out to cost $70.20 a month; that is almost one fifth of a welfare recipient's total monthly income. That simple pleasure you take as routine is an impossibility for many.

From 1994 to now the number of people appearing at the doors of the Mustard Seed food bank in Victoria has gone from 2500 to 5000.

Over half of this population are employed part time but get paid too little to afford proper nutrition. Some have disabilities, some have been released from psychiatric care and are no longer on crucial medications, and some are feeling the effects of the decreasing number of jobs in B.C.'s large natural resource industries like fishing, mining and forestry.

Some are single parents who cannot afford child care and some are teenagers who find the street a healthy improvement to their home life.

Every case is different.

No matter what the reason, proposed government funding cuts to welfare and increasing restrictions on access to social assistance in general could not come at a worse time.

The cut proposals have been made as a result of Premier Campbell's core review of government expenditures and are an attempt to "motivate" the poor to find jobs.

However, if the government were to do its research it would find that 53 per cent of the poor are already employed, but employers hire only part time hours to evade the cost of employee benefits.

If the government were to do its research, it would find that cutting the one source of income poor people depend on is not an effective form of motivation and invokes feelings of helplessness and a sense of giving up.

If the government were to do its research, it would learn that what these people lack in many cases is not motivation but rather affordable housing, accessible and high quality child care, access to education, not to mention health care and nutritional food, and funds to buy appropriate job interview clothing.

"Murray Coell [Minister of Human Resources] thinks there is sense in cutting the welfare budget as a way to get these people keen on digging up work," said Reverend Tom Oshiro, pastor and counsellor at the Mustard Seed Food bank.

"What he does not take into account are the emotional effects of this action, and the audacity this shows on the part of the liberal government at doling out substantial raises to cabinet ministers while simultaneously cutting off the poor."

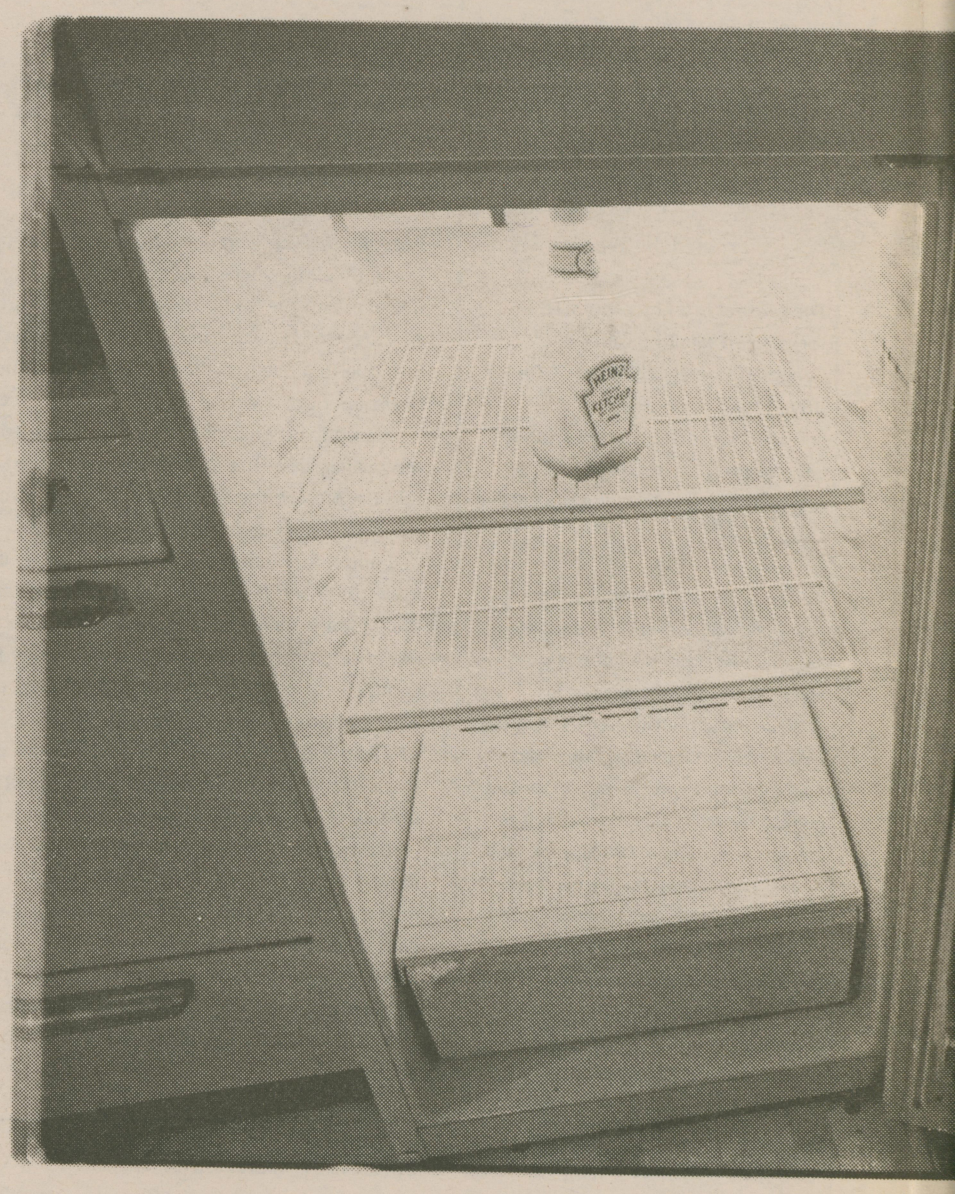
One of the biggest myths is that all poor people are substance abusers, or mentally ill or both.

Reverend Oshiro explained that, in fact, the poor population in Victoria is very diverse, each "with their own case, their own story and their own nightmare."

Oshiro is still waiting for the government to come up with a creative and effective solution to the poverty cycle people find themselves in. This generational cycle is next to impossible for an individual to break out of on their own.

An estimated 700 people in Victoria are homeless.

One of the many obstacles attributed to this fact is the shortage in affordable housing. B.C.'s rent costs exceed those of everywhere else in the country.



There are people who do not get the luxury of deciding between cane sugar and Sweet 'n' Low. There are people who would have savoured the bagel you left half eaten on the cafeteria tray. There are people who don't know the sensation of a full stomach on which to start the day.

But housing is not the only factor here.

Other considerations specific to Victoria that amplify the problem of high poverty rates come in a variety of areas. The high number of minimum wage jobs and flexible contract work makes for a sense of instability and impermanence, and the $6 an hour minimum wage for first-time jobs does not help one iota.

Plus, the minimum wage rate does not match costs of renting in Victoria.

A report done in 2000, titled Poverty and Inequality in the Capital Health Region of B.C., showed that a single person working full time at minimum wage, at 35 hours a week falls short of the poverty line by over $1000 a month. Single parents with less than a university education often work at minimum wage jobs and cannot afford child care.

The age of a child when their parent is obligated to return to work according to social assistance policies, is decreasing all the time. Recently, the government decided to cut welfare funding to single mothers. Now, those women have to return to work when the child is only a year old, instead of seven-year-old, as it was before.

"It is totally unreasonable to think that when your child is 10, she is fine on her own," said one single mother, who wished to remain anonymous. "It's illegal to leave her for one thing."

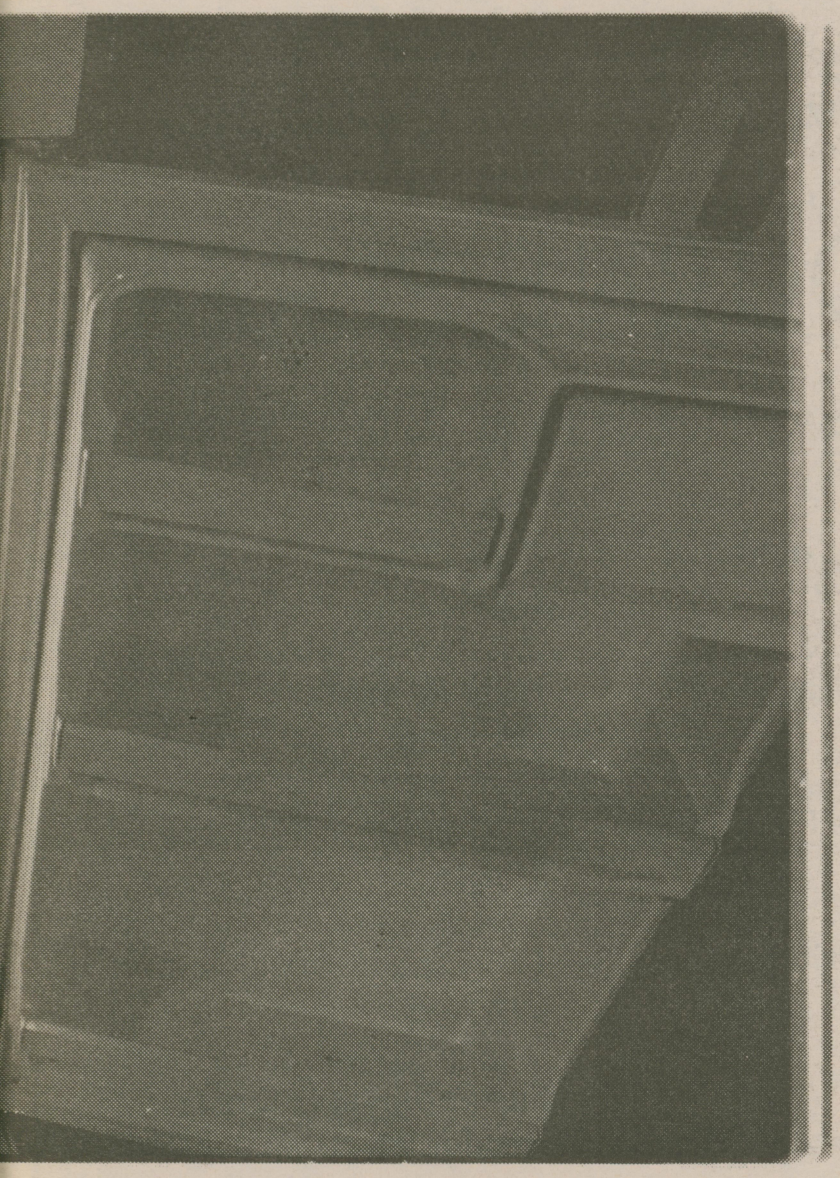


photo by Graham Winterbottom

Fortunately, these creative and effective solutions Rev. Oshiro hopes for are being considered with fervour outside of government offices.

Researchers at the University of Victoria are looking to the fundamental structure of society for answers.

"You have to look at the issue of poverty in a multiple perspective," said Francesca Zamboni, master's student in Social Work at the University of Victoria. "One of the things that comes up for me is that maybe poverty is secondary to the inequality inherent in our system."

Zamboni, who has been in the field of social work for a while now and has worked in outreach and with immigrants and refugees as well, said a significant number of low-income people refuse the aid that is available to them on the basis that jumping through all the welfare hoops is oppressive and ridiculously patronizing.

"It makes you wonder who has the mental illness, the individual or society, and what came first, poverty or widespread mental illness?" said Zamboni.

Dr. Marge Reitsma-Street, professor of Social Work at the University of Victoria said, "The city of Victoria has a long and strong tradition of buying up land for green space and park lands, but this is not the case with public land." Reitsma-Street has been researching poverty for many years, particularly in Victoria. She offered some insight as to how the situation could be improved.

"Consider a massive city like Beijing. They grow 100 per cent of their own food for consumption. Here on the island, amidst our lush environment, we grow 10 per cent. Why not grow more food?"

Her second idea saw public libraries as central places for people to access education for next to nothing. Libraries have a feeling of safety and security about them while simultaneously educating and motivating people to be curious about their environment.

"Library hours should be extended so that they are open almost all the time, and equipped with low-cost coffee stops."

She added that libraries do not discriminate on the basis of class or gender.

Reitsma-Street also mentioned the price of public transit and education need to be lowered.

In order to work towards decreasing poverty and hunger we need to be aware of the extent it affects Victoria; be conscious consumers; and take an active role in political forums and policy building with regard to social assistance. We need to get to the root of the issue and keep an open mind to stop the generational poverty cycle.

To have compassion for, and treat with respect, those who are poor and homeless, is to live with dignity and to be a good citizen. There is no excuse for the high numbers and we need to work together to see change.

Everyone deserves a hearty breakfast to start the day.

Let's not leave it up to Gordon Campbell.

Feasting medieval style

Julia Smith

Most UVic students may not know it but we are part of the kingdom of An Tir. Most might also be unaware that a club of students, faculty and alumni get together each week to bash each other with swords, make armour, sew fancy dresses, and tell stories as they take part in what member Duncan Macquarrie describes as "not quite a live action role playing game but something very close."

Such is the life of the members of the UVic Medieval Club or St. Giles College (its medieval name) who travel to Ancient Rome, the Far East, Renaissance France, and any time and place before 1650.

Each member creates a persona (with a location and time period) who existed before 1650. These personas gather to fight, feast and play. On Saturday, Nov. 17, they gathered for The Feast of Stories.

I sat, a little uncomfortably, in my borrowed 14th century dress between Hamila "the dancer" from 1085 Damascus, who was trying to make a living dancing and telling fortunes, and a lady from 1330 London England who thought broccoli were "green trees" and cauliflower was "unripe green trees." I guess they didn't have broccoli and cauliflower in 1330 England, though Hamila seemed unconcerned.

Most of the personas present had made their own garb (they don't like it when you call it a costume). The ladies dresses were as authentic to their time period as possible, though some admitted using Value Village curtains as material. Dimitrii Ivanavitch's (from Russia during the 1600s) kaftan was made of 12 metres of brocade to illustrate he was a man of wealth for his time – if only a poor student in real life.

Those who fight make their own armour. They bang metal to make elbow, knee and hand coverings as well as helmets and chain mail body armour. Apparently, it works well at protecting the body from the heavy sticks used in the place of swords. However, Dimitrii admitted after his first fight he had a bruise "this big (the length and width of his thigh) and all the colors of the rainbow."

photo provided

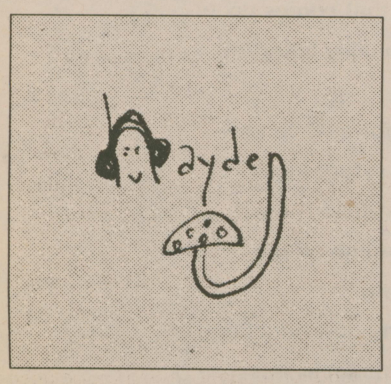
This heavy armoured combat is a martial art and the Medieval Club holds a yearly competition in March, the Daffodil Tournament. The rules are that competitors have to be over 16 and points are on the honour system. If one of the fighters is struck by the other and feels the blow isn't hard enough, she continues to fight. If she feels the blow is powerful then she signs defeat. There are no duels to the death but it can get serious, especially if you want to be king or queen.

The winner of the bi-annual Crown Tournament is crowned king or queen, but there are other ways to move up the medieval ladder. To be knighted you must have done great service over a long period of time. It is an honour rarely bestowed. There is only one knight in St. Giles College and he is also the Baron. The Baron and Baroness are democratically voted in, a procedure not much practiced in medieval times but as Duncan said, "We do the medieval ages how they should have been." For example they don't have holy wars, burn witches, have plagues, and the members do bath and practice proper hygiene.

As the court jester puts it, "We like to play." And so they play, at fighting, at dressing, at eating and at drinking.

Any one interested in the Medieval Club can contact Duncan at medieval@finearts.uvic.ca.

The small pet sounds of *Skyscraper National Park*



Hayden
Skyscraper National Park
Hardwood Records

by Kevin Cryderman

While this cd will probably not make many new converts, those hip to Hayden's über-mellow 'quiet core' acoustic sound will appreciate the added textures on the arrangements of some of these songs. The strings and French horn on the beautifully haunting album are closer to "lullaby" and nicely counterpoint his vocals, acoustic guitar and brushed snare drums.

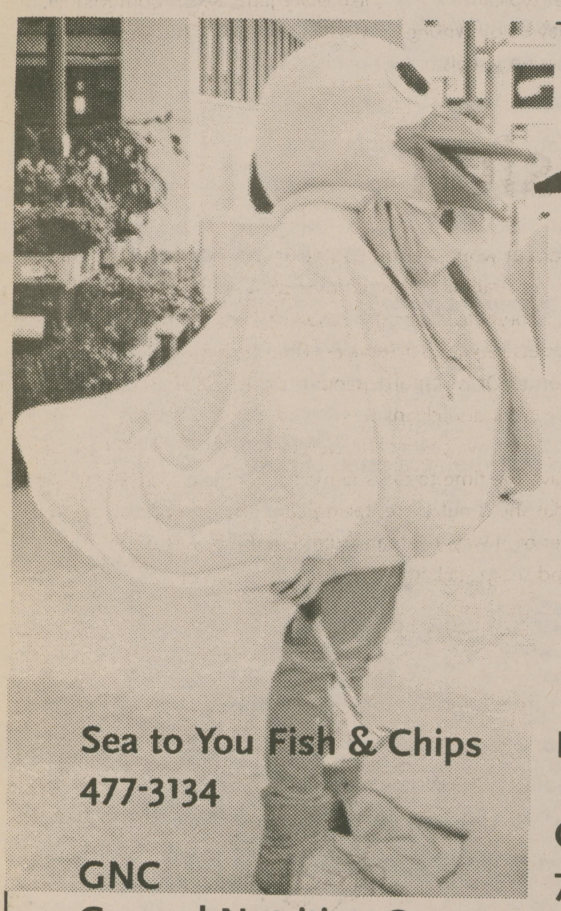
Strong tracks include the pulsing rheostaticsesque crescendo of "dynamite walls," the upbeat (well by Hayden standards, anyway) brit-pop hints of "carried away" – the 'sing-along song' of the concert when Hayden played Lucky Bar at the start of October – and the somber aching confessions of "looking for you in me."

Hayden characteristically toys with the formulaic 'verse-chorus-verse-chorus-bridge-chorus' dynamics of generic pop in favor of a song cycle that moves through what may at first sound to many listeners like unfinished rough sketches of songs (like the Beatles/Brian Wilson stylistics of "all in one move") to more fully orchestrated arrangements, such as one of the album's highlights, "bass song," which trails off into wonderfully swirling violin and cello arrangement at the end.

As always, Hayden takes his low-key approach in surprising and refreshing directions for songs that don't provide big easy pop-song payoff but reward multiple careful listenings. Instead, he offers small pet sounds that, this time around, pack more acoustic punch with the addition of atmospheric electric guitar.

Indeed, contrary to the barking of much big dog contemporary rock, this album doesn't push listeners back in a wall of distorted guitars and screaming vocals (not that there's anything wrong with that).

Instead, Hayden draws us in with distorted guitar flavourings along with a deceptively gentle acoustic guitar and whispered subtle melodies and lyrics that, all combined together, elevate his musings on the quotidian inferno to sublime heights.



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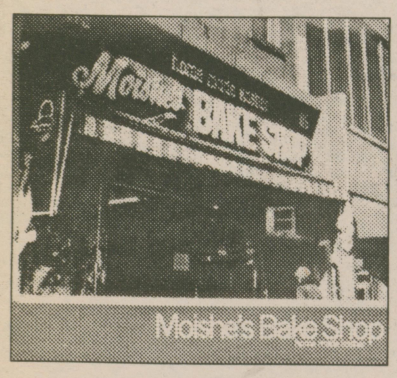
CD REVIEWS



Moishe's Bake Shop
Home Made Kosher Treats
Cyclic Manoeuvre

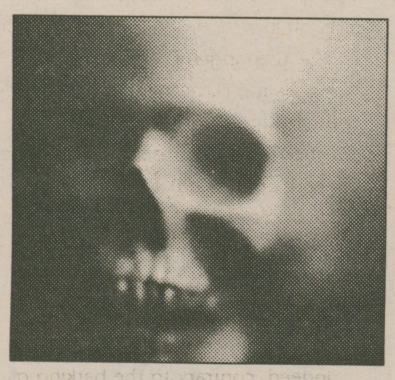
by Miranda Post

"We are going to examine the musical innards of jazz...jazz is a very big word, it covers a multitude of sounds and what's more its all jazz and I love it all." Substitute the word house for jazz in Over Street's 'Jazz Cigarette' and the track sums up Moe's latest compilation released as Moishe's Bake Shop and titled *Home Made Kosher.* It explores the sensibilities and social oversights that bring together the art forms of house and jazz.

"I love it because it's an original kind of emotional statement in that it is never wholly sad nor wholly happy," the essay-style lyrics continue on "Jazz Cigarette" (track #4). "That is what intrigues me about jazz...then I love it for its humour. It really plays with notes...." From the first down-tempo, deep beats of Crucsz' track "Poppers" to the smooth progression of Cooly's Hotbox "Deeper" Moe seamlessly marries the elements of jazz, house and dub. The vocals are subtle. There are no divas in this soundscape, instead *Homemade Kosher Treats* is a collection of soulful voices (think Marvin Gaye or Sade) layered over bongos, strings and 4/4 beats that are neither too dancefloor nor too deep. Mr. Moe's experience playing for diverse audiences shows through his choice of tracks – from Miguel Migs' "Lionel's Jam" to Funk d'Void's "Barnabeats." Mr. Moe's love for Raggae is always peeking around the corner, especially in his smooth-ass mix of "Barnabeats" and King Ola & Dr. Mo's "Moonlander." This is house and I love it all.

Swollen Members
Bad Dreams
Battle Axe

by Dustin Hawthorne

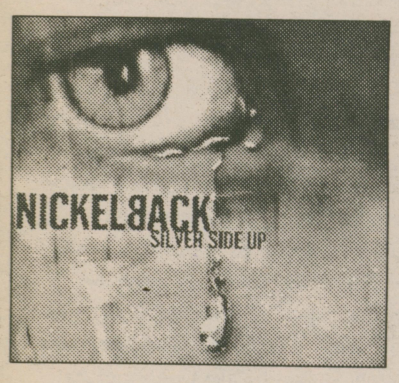


Swollen members are heavy hitters. I was thoroughly impressed by their first album *Balance*. Their sophomore album *Bad Dreams* is equally as good, if not better.

Released on Mad Child's label Battle Axe, it is nothing short of slick, and with guest producers on each track, including Mad Child and Rob the Viking, the overall feel of this release is astonishing. It's the combination of tight beats and even tighter tongue twisting rhymes courtesy of Prevail. From dark and gloomy tracks like "Killing Spree" and "Dark Riders" to bouncy, catchy tracks like "Take It Back," *Bad Dreams* is all over the map. They draw from many different styles and genres, making it eclectic and a very interesting brand of hip hop. The album features many amazing mc's; Planet Asia, Buck Fifty and Moka Only, to name a few. Combined, Mad Child and Prevail are a force to be reckoned with and on "Ventilate" they let this be known to each by dissing each other all in the name of "venting." It's good to see that the hard work and dedication Swollen Members have put forth is paying off, as I'm convinced that they are going to be big stars fast. Their live show is worth checking out, definitely the most explosive live hip hop act I've ever seen.

Nickelback
Silver Side Up
Roadrunner Records

by Dixon McGowan



This band rocks and the song "How You Remind Me" rocks. It has been on the charts for several months. Nickelback's sound is very polished. They sound a bit little like Creed and Default and like other Seattle rock bands. They are playing at the memoral arena Jan. 17, 2002, along with Default.

Default
The Fallout
label

by Dixon McGowan

This cd rocks. I play it all the time at home up loud. Default, like Nickelback is produced by Parasher which produces a lot of Seattle and Vancouver bands. Nickelback and Default will rock Victoria on Jan. 17. This concert is not one to miss. You'll be sorry if you do.

A feast for the eyes and the mind

by Kevin Cryderman

image provided

Waking Life is a postmodern cinematic update of the medieval dream vision narrative that explores various aspects of philosophical discourse over the ages (from free will versus determinism to existentialist versus post-structuralist conceptions of the subject) that have filtered down into collective consciousness. Is dream destiny, the film asks. Some movie-goers may call the film's wanderings-in-words "intellectual masturbation" while others may point out that the film also satirizes hyper-intellectualism and "amateur goofball philosophy" at the same time. One scene features a monkey giving a college lecture, while others enact moments of conversation in striking visuals, such as morphing bodies into clouds and distorted shapes, or a rant given on a boat car.

Featuring over 60 characters, including the voices and animated likenesses of Wiley Wiggins, Robert C. Solomon, Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy, Adam Goldberg, Nicky Katt, David Martinez, Tiana Hux, Speed Levitch, Steven Soderbergh, and Richard Linklater himself, Linklater's *Waking Life* uses newly-designed software and a team of animation artists to paint over digital video footage of various conversations between a dreamer and various characters in his mind. The animation direction is done by Bob Sabiston.

Philosophy students may say "I've heard all this stuff before," but nevertheless it is rare for these types of conversations to show up in celluloid. The context here is much more interesting. Call it "cartoons for thinking adults." Those who enjoy those icon books such as *Sartre For Beginners* should find this film both interesting and entertaining. The liquid and constantly-shifting animation style suits the film's multi-perspectivist take on various aspects of the subject and the fluidity of metaphysics itself. The film also meanders through vibrant conversation, debate and ranting monologues that the dreamer (Wiley Wiggins) encounters in a dream from which he cannot seem to awake.

Apparently each character was given a lot of freedom in constructing their dialogue instead of acting out a carefully-crafted script by a sole author. Indeed, the film brings the authorship of one's life into question as it ponders the meaning of existence and the importance of dreams and curiosity in our current age of chaos. The effect is a free-form rambling style that some may find exhilarating and others may find annoying or boring. For those who don't like "dialogue" movies (i.e. did you like/not like Kevin Smiths's Clerks?), you may not enjoy this movie, but for those looking for something a little more cerebral that typical Hollywood fare, you may enjoy *Waking Life*'s combination of stirring visuals and fun, thought-provoking conversation.

Waking Life avoids the hollywoodized Freytag's pyramid structure of an "exciting" action every seven minutes in favour of a stream of consciousness style narrative that nevertheless builds to somewhat of a climax as the audience may start to wonder why it is that the dreamer cannot awake. Rather than revealing the answer, the film drops enough hints in many directions to allow one to make an interpretation and to make one wonder about the direction of one's own dream-life.

Waking Life treads the fine line between death and life, the known and the unknown, as well as pretentious trash versus art film. Personally, I enjoyed the film and, if anything, *Waking Life* should make one curious about life, death, time, dreams, identity and reality as it provides some food for thought among movie-goers that is more interesting than the price of popcorn or who is dating the latest Hollywood starlet. See it with a friend, like Mary Jane, Mushroom Minnie, or Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.

One woman's mission

by Suzanne Beaubien

From my apartment I can hear the autumn work of city workers: men in tight jeans with big, blue earmuffs, blowing dead leaves into piles that will eventually be sucked up and whisked away somewhere. With their gas-powered, roaring backpacks, they clear the sidewalks but clog the streets, covering the drain grates, causing water to pool along the side of the road to form puddles.

An elderly woman who lives in my neighbourhood finishes the job that these men start. I've seen her several times within spitting distance of my apartment building on Fort St. by Christie's Pub. She wears a thick red coat and a ladylike hat and her walker has a basket for her matching purse.

She's about four feet, 11 inches tall, although it is difficult to determine her exact height because every time I've seen her she has been bent over double.

The first time I saw her she was using a stick about a foot long. Hunched over, with one hand on her walker for support, she scraped the pavement, clearing aside leaves so rain water could meet the drain. I stood and watched her for a moment, my instincts telling me to offer my help. It looked like difficult work, but I didn't want to imply that she wasn't doing a good job.

Walking further down Fort Street, I noticed that all of the drains on our side had been attended to by the woman in the red coat. Wet leaves were neatly piled downstream from the drains, waiting to be sucked up by the city's leave collectors. I wondered how long she had been at work that day.

Not a week later, I saw her at work again. This time she had a salmon-coloured dustpan with a good sharp edge for scraping in her hand. She had obviously planned ahead, stuffing the dustpan in her walker's basket before leaving her home.

I knew then that she didn't need my help.

It's been over six months now since I last saw the drain-scraping woman, although I still see evidence of her diligence around. I recently told a friend about her and only a few days later she told me that she had seen the woman hard at work over on Begbie St. by the Stadacona market.

Several blocks away I marveled at how large her scraping territory was. Does she have a weekly planner, noting what streets require her services, venturing ever farther from her home? Or is it spontaneous – the result of an obsessive need for order and cleanliness?

Either way, what the well-paid male city workers don't have the time to do, she makes her priority. I like knowing that she is out there, taking care of our neighbourhood in her own way, dustpan stuffed in the basket of her walker and sharp stick in hand.

graphic by Joanna Wong

Sing your way to happiness

by Rebecca Whitney

For 50 years Bisia Belina, vocal improvisation diva, has known that there is melody in every person. A performing singer and songwriter, she projects a new-age sound that found its birth in the diversity of her life experiences.

Bisia, as she is simply called, is a certified massage therapist, highly acclaimed vocal improvisation and movement teacher, and motivational speaker. She has dedicated her life to exploring the power and the rewards of music. In the last decade she has directed her energies into bringing the power of vocal healing into the lives of people suffering from what a new wave of caregivers are calling 'compassion burnout.'

"We are all caregivers," said Bisia, "and in constantly giving to others, we diminish the ability to give to ourselves."

The result is depression, melancholy and the inability to focus or cope. "You really become blah," she said.

Bisia helps people, "find their inner melody" in a class that runs once a week at Lynda Raino Dance and four nationwide conferences a year that cope with compassion burnout.

"Always a circle," is how Bisia prefers to start her vocal healing classes, which make use of a combination of improvisational voice and movement. Most of the movement is energetic-based which is very different from the aerobics classes that she taught for five years in her youth.

"There is a stillness to the movement that allows you to access your internal stuff," said Bisia.

Each class begins with breathing exercises. Bisia then starts up a rhythm that the members of the class take up in their own time.

Leaving a few members of the group with the core rhythm, she adds new vocal patterns and textures, assigning the various rhythms to different members of the group until they are joined in a many-layered harmony.

"The sounds that you give out are reflected back at you by the whole group, it's very tribal," said Judith Wong, one of Bisia's voice students.

"Bisia has such an abundance of voice, the energy just flows out of her, even people who don't think they have a voice are caught up by her energy. The whole experience is very, very positive."

There is a place for everyone at Bisia's round table, even those who for one reason or other don't believe they can sing.

"People have been shut down, their voices have been shut down from all kinds of experiences, and many believe that they can't do it," she said.

Therefore, she approaches her workshops and classes in a very non-musical way at first.

Approaching the workshop in terms of rhythm and percussion enables people to relax and just make whatever sounds come to them without thinking of it as singing.

"I am not taking them to a place of the sacred which is solemn and still, I am trying to access their joy, because if there is joy there is inspiration and that is what keeps us going in life."

As a caregiver, Bisia necessarily listens to people's inner pain.

graphic by Joanna Wong

"Vocal work is the complete opposite, it is a very collaborative method of healing, the discovering of oneself in another's unique voices."

This unique sound has found its home on her cd *Thirsty Desert*, produced in 1997 by Mostyn Sound. Nine hours a week were spent in the small Victoria studio and at the end of the two years she had a personal repertoire of over 70 pieces. She uses a unique combination of the rhythms of jazz and smooth vocalisation with her primarily jazz scat vocal improvs.

Bisia chose the title as a metaphor for life. "We are all 'thirsty deserts' in some capacity and when the desert gets rain, and to me rain is the release of emotion, then the desert flowers. It is the same with us."

Her cd is her thesis. It follows a path to the discovery of the multiple layers possible in the human voice. Bisia says that on average each person has nine voices, harmonic inter-twinings of the self which is what she is exploring.

While she is not certain if she will release another cd in the future, it is clear that she intends to return to performance at some time. But at present her work at the massage clinic and her vocal classes and workshops are keeping her too busy to miss life on stage. With two upcoming "Vocal Improvisation for Compassion Burnout" workshops in the Greater Victoria area in the next two months, Bisia say she is the busiest she has ever been.

"The more I sing, the more I realize it makes me happier and happier and happier, do I need more proof than that of the power of music? Definitely not!"

Art show all about colour blue

by Anne Larrass

Did you know that indigo was a plant and cobalt a mineral? Did you know that the word denim is derived from 18th century France when indigo-dyed cloth from India was copied at Nimes.

If you want to learn about the mysteries and cultural significance of the colour blue, visit the Maltwood Gallery in the University Centre. Caroline Riedel, curator of the Maltwood Museum, said that All About Blue can be an educational experience, "but not overwhelmingly so."

You will be amazed at the variety of blue that drapes the interior of the gallery. Blue gems and minerals from Thailand, Brazil, Morocco and Afghanistan to blue porcelain, glass, bandannas and jeans make up only a small part of the exhibit. There is much more so see.

Blue is the predominant colour of our world. The sky, on clear days, is blue. Blue hue surrounds distant mountains reflected in the blue ocean. In other words, this magical colour elicits beauty, freedom and eternity.

All About Blue tells the story of how blue impacts our world and takes you on a cross-cultural tour during which you will discover the complexity inherent in the symbolism of blue. According to the exhibit pamphlet, "In the West, blue is the colour of spirit, intellect, peace and contemplation." In the Middle East, it has been a colour of mourning and "considered inauspicious in Hindu society."

All About Blue is a traveling exhibit produced by the Canadian Society for Asian Arts (CSAA) "in an effort to present Asian Arts to Vancouver and Canada," as stated in the pamphlet.

Caroline Riedel is pleased with the outcome of the exhibit and says that "people are pretty excited about it." So if you're feeling blue and overwhelmed by the amount of school work, take a break, visit All About Blue, and let the power of the colour fill you up.

Barenaked Lady bares his soul

by Nita Singh

TORONTO (CUP) – Barenaked Ladies' keyboardist Kevin Hearn has come a long way since 1998. Diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia in that year, he has beaten the odds and has gone on to release *H-Wing*, his second solo album.

Hearn underwent a bone marrow transplant and was kept in strict isolation in the H-Wing of the Princess Margaret Hospital, for which he named the album. It was during this period that he began writing songs.

"It was difficult going through that, but it wasn't difficult to put it into words," he said. "At the time I was only [writing songs] for therapy and it helped me get through it."

Hearn has since made a full recovery.

He said while he is honoured to be a member of the Ladies, he welcomes the opportunity to do solo work. "I feel the need to express myself in that capacity whenever I can," said Hearn. "I really love to do solos. There's a freedom there."

At choir school, Hearn had the opportunity to develop his skills. Recording H-Wing gave him the opportunity not only to play keyboard, but to tap into his other talents: songwriting, singing and playing guitar.

Hearn and his band, Thin Buckle, offer a unique sound with dark lyrics and upbeat melodies – a contrast he intended.

"Humour's always been a part of what I do," Hearn said. "I take music really seriously, but I also love to laugh."

While the songs have a melancholy undertone, it is Hearn's spirit that dominates their vivid melodies and wistful harmonies. A window into his soul, Hearn's voice takes the listener from his darkest moments to his final triumph.

Speaking freely about life and death, his music expresses strength, determination and hope. "I just try to be true to what I'm hearing in my head," he said.

On stage, Hearn sheds his shy demeanour and delivers a truly inspirational performance. His songs take on a life of their own and it's almost like he is conquering his past all over again.

Hearn said he hopes people can relate to his music. "I think the scenario on the album can translate and parallel different scenarios in people's lives."

Currently Hearn is booking live performances in small clubs, a change he calls "humble pie" compared to the larger venues he plays with the Barenaked Ladies. Nevertheless, he embraces the opportunity to showcase his abilities to a more intimate audience.

Hearn said music has always been a source of comfort and release for him, and he hopes to see that continue. "It's something I want to do until I die," said Hearn, who is also writing music with the Barenaked Ladies for the children's television show *Seven Little Monsters*.

As for other aspects of his life, Hearn has a whole new outlook.

"I have more appreciation for what's truly beautiful and just how short our time on this planet is."

Sailing club afloat in Caddy Bay

by Marni Friesen

There hasn't been a student-run sailing club at UVic for more than four years due to maintenance and safety issues that surfaced in the late 90s. But for avid sailors and students determined to get out on the water Cadboro Bay still offers opportunities for adventure.

In fact, a sailing club does exist at UVic, although you won't find any reference to it in the Athletics and Recreation publications. Its 12 members are mostly grad students, staff, faculty and alumni. They all own and maintain their own boats, storing them in the Cadboro Bay compound that is administrated and maintained by the UVic Athletics and Recreation Department.

It's a vastly different set-up from the student-run club of the early 90s, which jointly used and maintained five Laser dinghies and cooperated with the Athletics and Recreation Services Department (ATRS) in offering sailing lessons to students.

The club went through major overhauls in 1997/8, due to safety concerns and a lack of leadership continuity.

"The time came to make a decision; drop the program completely or change it," said Winona Pugh, A&R Recreation Co-ordinator and the administrator of the sailing club in its present incarnation.

Changes came in the fall of 1997 as no students volunteered for executive club positions that year. With the sailing club essentially nonexistent, ATRS was left to deal with a fleet of boats that had been in a state of disrepair for several years.

"We knew that the boats were in bad condition," Pugh said.

In fact, the department had stopped participation in sailing lessons in 1995 because it was uncomfortable with the condition of the dinghies.

Sailor ability was another safety issue. "One of the final straws was when Search and Rescue crews had to go out and pick up the club president," Pugh said.

Apparently the student had sailed out of the club boundary of Cadboro Bay and bad weather forced him to spend a cold night on Discovery Island. He was unharmed.

In Pugh's opinion the boats were neglected for a couple of reasons: a lack of time commitment and a lack of individual investment in the boats. Often students didn't take the responsibility to fix equipment that they had broken, because they had no personal stake in it.

"If someone was taking out a boat with a broken rudder, they would just exchange it for the rudder from another boat," said Pugh.

With no student club to do fundraising it was impossible to cover the cost of extensive repairs. The boats were sold according to UVic procedures by silent auction. Pugh recalls that the boats were in such poor condition that the five Lasers were sold for about $1000. They weren't even whole boats, "they were five hulls, they were in pieces," she said.

Funds from the sale went back into the sailing club's account and were spent on dinghy dollies and repairs to the sailing compound. Since boats are now individually owned, maintenance of the compound is the club's primary expense. Revenues come from membership and compound rental fees; because the club isn't currently a student-run organization, it doesn't receive any money from the university.

The present club may be small in numbers but its members are enthusiastic. Anatolius Foreacre is a recent UVic graduate and avid catamaran sailor. He characterised the club as "informal," but said, "all the guys that sail are very passionate about it." It isn't just a fair weather sport for them either.

"Winter is our sailing season. We're more on the extreme side. When the wind really gets going we like to be out there."

There has even been some interest in restarting a student-run club. "One sailor wanted to get the club going again but UVic wasn't interested," he said – mostly because of the safety and liability issues.

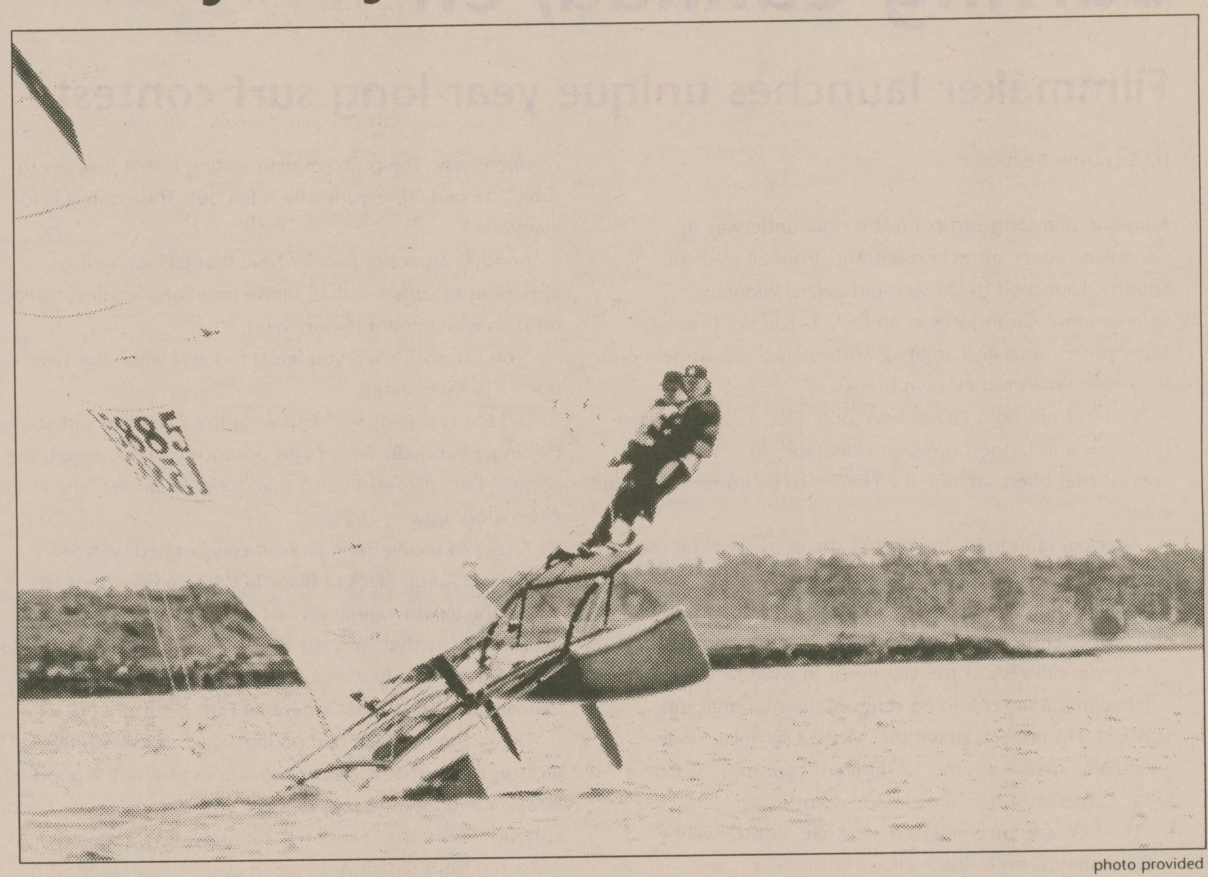


photo provided

Sailing enthusiasts take advantage of a windy fall day on Cadboro Bay.

Pugh said that she gets about 10 calls a year from students interested in sailing. She makes an effort to connect them with "keen sailors" like Foreacre who own their own boats, or else refers them to the Cadboro Bay Sailing Association (CBSA), a community organization that shares the Cadboro Bay compound with UVic.

Many CBSA members own their own dinghies, but anyone interested in sailing is welcome to join as a "social member." Novices usually learn by crewing on two-person dinghies, while more experienced sailors may be allowed to take the helm.

The CBSA is active from April to October – during those months they have regular Tuesday-night races in the bay and also host several other events, such as last summer's Women's Laser Event for which members donated the use of their boats for women who wanted to get out on the water.

"It's a great way to learn and have fun by sailing with other people," said Grant MacKenzie, the association's treasurer, adding that Cadboro Bay is a "perfect" day-sailing location. "In the summer, generally between 11:00 and 2:00 in the afternoon, there is a nice little localized breeze."

The races are "casual but competitive," said MacKenzie. "It's for all levels of sailors."

MacKenzie said that there aren't many UVic students in the club, although its members cover every age group and include several UVic employees. The problem is that the regular sailing season doesn't fit well with the university academic year – any students that spend summers away from Victoria lose out on the bulk of the club's active sailing season.

Because the Cadboro Bay Sailing Association works in partnership with the UVic Sailing Club in maintaining the Cadboro Bay compound, MacKenzie is well aware of the state of UVic's club. He sympathises with the practical problems of running a student sailing club but thinks that it could be done if there were enough support from students.

He suggested looking at other universities' sailing programs to see how they deal with the problem of boat ownership, maintenance and a continually fluctuating membership.

Foreacre thinks that UVic could run an active sailing club again, if it were done under the same liability clause that other sports clubs operate under.

"There are clubs much more dangerous than sailing," he said. "Look at contact sports."

Interested sailors can contact the Cadboro Bay Sailing Association at <cadbaysail@shaw.ca> or phone Grant MacKenzie (477-7313).

Reflections on the Autumn world of professional sports

by Iain McLetchie

There's not a whole lot new and improved in the world of professional sports. Money is made, athletes are paid and loyalty is frayed.

Leaves are falling from trees, rain is falling from clouds and Caddy Bay is no longer the summer mecca it once was. Yes, autumn is here, and with it comes the busiest time of year in the world of sports.

Now, the city of Victoria unfortunately doesn't give the local sports fanatic any teams to cheer for – outside of the Salsa, of course – so one is forced to view further afield and dream of what could have been if we had a new Multiplex. So, with the aid of a new-fangled phenomenon known as the "internet" and a not-so-new invention called "cable", it's time to discover what's been going on in the sporting world.

First to hockey, where it seems Hell has frozen over. Or maybe it's just bubbled over into the city of Calgary, where the consistently non-playoff-bound Flames have taken the NHL by storm, scorching opponents behind a goalie who was essentially run out of one town and a blossoming sniper who grew up in, of all places, Edmonton. Yes, Roman Turek is the real deal in the nets, as St. Louis fans weren't willing to find out, and Jarome Iginla is running away with the early scoring race.

Of course, only time will tell if the Flames can keep up their early season pace, but why shouldn't they? Marc Savard, their first-line centre, just returned from a knee injury (God knows it's about time – he's killing me in the hockey pool), and...well, stranger things have happened. Speaking purely as an Alberta lad, it warms the cockles of my snowshoes to see the Flames back. Now if only they'd quit playing Mike Vernon.

Hey, how about those comebacks? Good stuff, huh? Except for Mario Lemieux, who seems to have developed a serious hip problem. Can this guy never win? Hodgkins Disease, a bolloxed back, financial woes and now the hip thing. Is Mario the walking incarnation of Murphy's law or just plain unlucky?

In Vancouver the big news is the return of Trevor Linden to the 'Nuckers. Sure enough, the local heroes went on a wee non-losing streak and actually looked like a team. If the Vancouver lads can find a solid goalie, they may have a chance to make the playoffs. Dan Cloutier has picked up his play of late but hasn't backed it up over the long haul. Martin Brochu was a bust and no-one else of note is waiting in the wings in case Cloutier falters. Maybe the 'Nuckers should give Chico Resch a call.

Now to hoops, where Michael Jordan is sixth in the NBA in scoring with 25.4 ppg. Of course, he's shooting a scintillating .402 from the field and is two-for-sixteen from beyond the arc (as of Tuesday). But what do you expect when you don't play for three years and then join the Washington Generals, I mean, Wizards?

The main story in the NBA is the suspension of Clippers forward Lamar Odom for "choosing to experiment with marijuana". Of course, that choice cost Odom five games and the forfeiture of nearly $150,000 in salary.

Seems like the price of pot must have risen ridiculously in Southern California if Odom was willing to give up that much in salary to have a toke. Or maybe he's not too good at math. Either way, it wasn't the smartest move of the year.

How about the CFL? The Grey Cup was... Oh, never mind.

NFL? Come on now. I don't care who makes it to the Super Bowl as long as the ads and halftime show are decent, which, of course, they always are. Here's a quick shout to the NFL brass to have Everclear sing the anthem. Yeah!

But seriously now, there's not a whole lot new and improved in the world of professional sports. Money is made, athletes are paid and loyalty is frayed. (Nice rhyme, huh?)

The best sports to watch are taking place right here on campus. The women and men of the Vikes squads are sacrificing plenty of time and putting out a pretty solid product on the field. What's more, fan support is appreciated by the players and the games are free. Get out while you can, and show some support.

Hunter S. Thompson got his break as a sports writer and look how far he went.

Wanna write sports for the Martlet?

Come see the glamorous sports lads, Iain and Craig, in SUB B011. Love them. We do.

Surfing Canada, eh

Filmmaker launches unique year-long surf contest

by Suzanne Beaubien

A unique year-long surf contest is now underway in Canadian waters, attracting entrants from all over the country. Launched by 29 year-old award-winning videographer Aaron Jackson on Oct. 1, *Boarder Lines* will allow professional and amateur surfers alike to compete on their own time on their own breaks.

Surfers from both coasts have until Oct. 1, 2002, to get their best and biggest rides on videotape; to enter the contest that offers anyone the chance to be immortalized on video.

After being judged, the best of the entries will be used by Jackson to produce a 30-minute all-Canadian surf video which will premiere next fall simultaneously in B.C., Ontario and Nova Scotia, revealing the winners at that time.

Boarder Lines is just the first event in what Jackson hopes will become a never-ending series of international surf contests. His project, called the "Video Olympics," will eventually involve around 12 different countries, all doing what Canadian surfers are already doing.

The best entrance videos from each country will be judged against each other, allowing surfers to rank themselves internationally without ever leaving their home waters.

Jackson estimates it will take two to three years to get all the participating countries up and running. Once the framework is in place he says there will likely be events every year. Each of the half-hour videos will be aired as part of a television series with one segment for each country involved in the contest.

Jackson says his goal isn't to exploit surfing.

"I want to give people the opportunity to surf competitively. The problem with surfing is that it caters to pros," he said. "Everyone else is left out. This contest is for everyone."

Another aspect of *Boarder Lines* that Jackson says is appealing to surfers is that, unlike traditional contest surfing, off-days won't count for anything.

"You can surf when you feel good and when the swell is good," Jackson stated.

Jackson is already well known in the Canadian surf scene. He single-handedly filmed and produced *5mm Canada,* the original Canadian surf video that *Surfer Magazine* voted best cinematography in 1999.

After producing *5mm* Jackson collaborated with Sean White and Aaron Black of Black & White productions to create the award-winning, cross-discipline climbing video *Beyond Gravity* that won the X-Games Film Festival award for Best Film and the Best Mountain Film award at the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival.

Unlike *5mm*, which had no footage of female surfers, Jackson thinks that *Boarder Lines* is going to have a good female contingent. A few women have already entered and, although there is a "Women's" category, wahines aren't restricted from entering the open event to compete with men for the top prize of $5000.

So far only 21 surfers and 16 videographers have entered the contest but Jackson expects many more by the due date of Dec. 15. "Now's the time for filming," he said. "The surf is good and the weather is great."

Jackson will be hosting a workshop at the Victoria Film School on December 6 from 7-9 pm. It will be an opportunity for surfers and videographers to make contact and get some tips on how to film the fast-paced water sport.

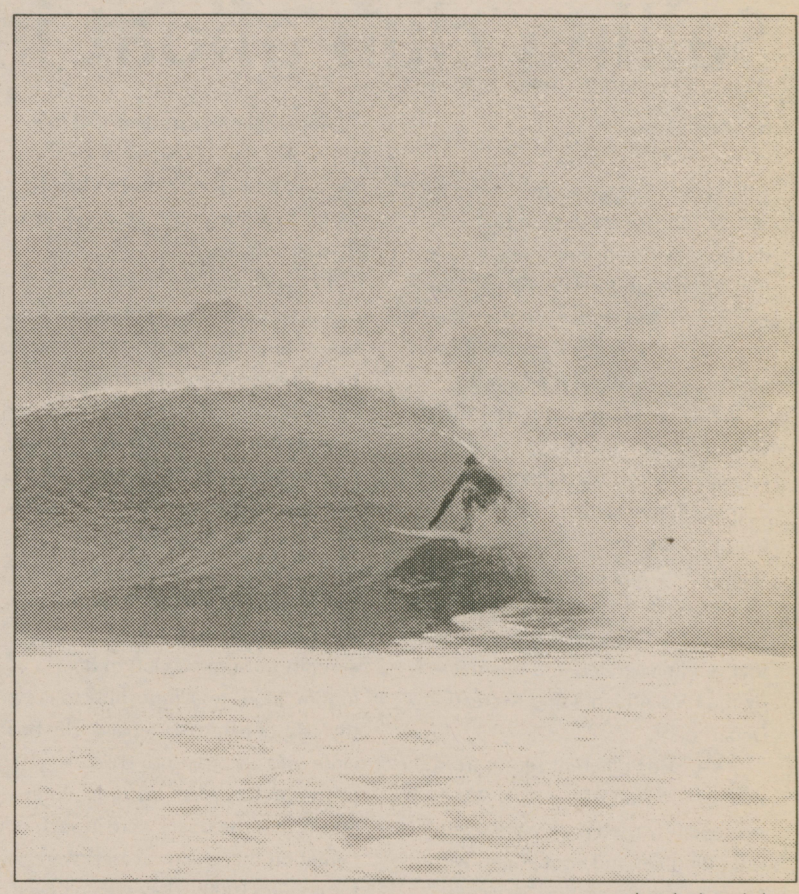


photo by Aaron Jackson

National champ Raph Bruhwiler doing what he does best.

UVic rugby players among the best

by Crystal Pinarello

The 2002 Women's Canadian National Rugby Squad may just include six players from UVic.

The long list for Canada was released last week naming all the players from provincial and university teams across Canada who are being considered for the Canadian National team. Of the 180 chosen, 30 are from B.C. and six are Vikes.

Included on the list from UVic were Vikes' captain Kim Coyle as well as Stephanie Cox, Noelle Daigle, Sarah Hanna, Lindsay Hinds and Cindy Sellars.

"From this list, players are selected to play for both the senior and under-23 national teams," said Sarah Hanna, the Vikes' fullback who has not only been included on the list for the last two years but was also chosen to play on the under-23 team both years.

"Having six players on the long list is excellent for UVic, especially since two of those players have never been on the long list before," said Hanna.

Lindsay Hinds and Stephanie Cox are excited to be included on the list for the first time this year.

"This is probably my biggest achievement in athletics so far," said Cox, a Vikes rookie who currently plays hooker for UVic. "It is a huge honour to be considered on a list with such high-calibre athletes."

"Having six players on the list demonstrates that our program is well run, well-rooted, has tradition and great coaching," said Cox.

All the women selected from UVic agree that it is not only a great opportunity for these athletes but also a huge accomplishment for the Vikes' program to have this many players who are being considered for the national team.

"It shows that at least six players from the UVic squad are amongst the best in the country," said Hanna who also knows that being long-listed means a lot of work in the coming months for the athletes selected.

"All the players on the list have to participate in a fitness challenge over the next few months to assess their overall fitness, commitment and dedication," Roxanne Butler, the National Women's teams director for Rugby Canada, told the athletes in an email last week. The results are sent to National Coach Ric Suggit who eventually will choose the final squad.

The first testing session begins on December 15 and runs right through until the end of April.

photo provided

The Vikes women's rugby team (left) prepare to engage the enemy.

Weekend Roundup

Women's Basketball

Last season's Canadian Intervarsity Sport champion Regina Cougars paid a visit to McKinnon gym last weekend in a Canada West league play with the hometown UVic Vikes.

Despite 17 points and four rebounds from Lindsay Anderson on Friday night, the Vikes couldn't pull off the victory, losing 55-44 to a strong Cougar side. Phoebe De Ciman led Regina with 12 points and nine boards.

Saturday started put differently as a determined UVic side came out strong, leading 36-32 at halftime. However, in the second half Regina showed why they're ranked third in the nation, coming back to beat a visibly frustrated UVic side by 11, 75-64. Anderson again led the way with 27 points, four rebounds and four assists, while Crystal Heisler led Regina with 19 points and eight assists.

The pair of losses leaves the women with a 1-7 record and plenty to hash out before their next action: the University of Calgary Tournament from Dec. 28-30.

Men's Basketball

With forwards Nate Ashead and Ross McDonald out with injuries, the men's team needed some interior production in their games against Regina. It came in the form of Sandy Bisaro and Jason Crawford.

In a fast-paced game Friday night the UVic men's basketball team thundered past Regina by a 91-75 count. Point guard Shaun Doherty returned from injury to lead the transition game, and Bisaro provided the interior scoring and defence with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Brennan Schwartz led the Cougars with 23 points and six assists.

Saturday's game was a bit of a snoozer, as the Vikes took an early lead and were never in danger of relinquishing it, beating Regina 79-69. Crawford scored 18 points in the first half on his way to a 21 point and seven rebound effort in the game. A solid interior defence also helped keep Regina at bay.

Schwarz attempted to lead Regina back in the second half, but it wasn't enough as UVic stayed in charge thanks to solid outside shooting.

The wins put UVic in the middle of the race in the Pacific Division with a 5-3 record. The lads will face Evergreen State College on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at McKinnon gym.

Women's Rugby

Women's rugby faced off against Douglas on Saturday at Wallace Field hoping for some vengeance for a severe thrashing Douglas had imposed on them early in the season. Despite losing 22-12 the team gained some confidence and showed they can play with the best teams in the B.C. league.

The loss leaves the Vikes with two wins, five losses and no ties in league play. The women play this weekend against UBC in the beautiful port city of Vancouver.

Men's Rugby

After struggling to find Gordon Park in Vancouver, UVic made the trip worthwhile by beating the British Lions squad by a 15-10 count. Andrew Glason continued his strong play of late, scoring both UVic tries, while Ed Fairhurst added a penalty kick and a conversion.

UVic now sports a gaudy 9-2-0 record in the B.C. Premier League.

Men's Field Hockey

Head Coach Rick Underwood wimped out of Saturday's match with a supposed attack of appendicitis, but the team didn't miss him at all, pounding India FHC 3-0 at the UVic turf.

Graham Scargal scored his first goal of the season early in the match and then added his second for good measure a little later on. Ross Whelan scored the other UVic goal and Nick Blitterswyk notched his fourth shutout of the season.

The win leaves UVic with a 3-2-3 record in the B.C. First Division and also puts them through to the second round of the Newcastle Shield, which starts again in January.

BILLBOARDS

ON CAMPUS

"Armed with Understanding" – an interactive lecture series. **Thurs. Nov. 29** – Dr. Sikata Banerjee (UVic women's studies dept.) on "Gender, Nationalism, and War," 2 p.m. in Cinecenta. All are welcome.

Attn: Torontonians
Are you driving from T.O. to Victoria after Christmas? How'd ya like to have a compainion? Like 250 lbs of coffee? I am trying to ship 250 pounds of green beans to Victoria. They wont talk your ear off and they do pay mileage, so if you're interested call Kevin @ 386-1010 or e-mail kevinbsmith@hotmail.com

Contemporary Currents – a group art exhibition by the students of Art Ed. 401. A. Wilfred Johns Gallery, MacLaurin Building, UVic, December 3-7, Opening Night Reception **Dec. 3**, 7-9 p.m. Free to everyone, for more info call 414-6653

OFF CAMPUS

Hadassah-Wizo 3rd annual super sale! Books, clothes, games, jewelry, and misc. household items, fabrics, and much more! Plus mini-auction. **Sun. Dec. 2**, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jewish Community Centre, 3636 Shelbourne St. (across from Shelbourne Plaza). For info call 598-1587.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anti-FTAA, GATT, WTO, and IMF? Learn your ABC's of activism at Haultain Video, 1508 Haultain St.

Stressed out? Try an acupressure treatment. UVic rates: $40/90 min; $20/30 min (head, neck, shoulders, feet). On campus. Laura 995-1350.

VOLUNTEERS

Male volunteers needed! Volunteer your time to assist someone who wants to get out this fall and be active! Recreation Integration Victoria is looking for volunteers to provide one-on-one assistance for people with disabilities in a recreational setting. Take advantage of an opportunity that could enrich both your life and the life of someone else! To get involved or for more info, call Laura at 477-6314.

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HEY YOU

Friday, enchantress in striped tights...enamorado me fue cayendo.

You know the feeling when you wake up and the sun is coming in through your window on a day you were expecting rain? Well, that's the feeling I get when you are near.

I love you gently. Gently I love you. I will see you in a week beautiful lover girl.

Je vois qu'il y a une pomme de terre dans ta poche. Pourquoi ?

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STUDENT VOICE

Public forum and workshop to address housing affordability

by Braco Malkoc

On Friday, November 23, a public forum and afternoon workshop was held at Princess Mary Restaurant. At this event Russell Mawby and Keith Hanson from Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) discussed the partnership, development and financing approaches applied through SHIP. This forum was used to help people such as developers, planners, financial lenders, investors, municipal employees, non-profit agencies, renters etc. to learn from Saskatoon's experience and to help promote new housing partnerships in the Capital Regional District.

Keith Hanson discussed affordable housing for families and he mentioned how building partnerships not only build buildings but help build peoples lives, improve their homes and promote safe communities. His work is involved in helping families with an income of $24,000 to $36,000 per year become owners of affordable new homes with little or no government assistance and his challenge is to help set up the construction of modest new homes. He said that the only viable option in Canada for a sustainable financial future is to purchase a residential house. Families in Saskatoon that earn incomes of $ 36,000 per year will start to be able to access the traditional market place of their house.

Two questions that came out in Keith Hanson's lecture were how to get professional home builders involved and prepared to design and build new homes at affordable prices and how to plan a large enough program to allow for builders volumes to be achieved.

One possible solution mentioned by Hanson was to create a non-profit organization with this knowledge and create an affordable new home development foundation. In Saskatoon the non-profit affordable new home development foundation was created to identify and work with families who have been unable to access the traditional market place and to work with builders to design and build modest new homes. The foundation is controlled by a volunteer board of directors that works with the community and professional home builders to design, finance and build affordable housing. It assists families and first-time home buyers to purchase affordable new homes, helps them arrange their incomes so they can qualify for financing, helps arrange their down payment, assists in reducing their personal debts and helps families understand the benefits of home ownership (family security, recreation, pride of ownership).

The foundation offers financial assistance to families by offering a gift of $3,000 to be used towards their down payment. This money is from the City of Saskatoon's affordable housing budget. The foundation financing operating expenses are covered by a small contribution from the builder for each house occupied, a small contribution from the lender for each house financed and a small contribution from the companies.

Hanson mentioned that over 80 affordable new homes are being constructed in three different communities in Saskatoon. The foundation works with professional home builders because they have the knowledge, capacity and desire to find cost-effective solutions to building challenges, they have purchasing power that can not be matched and they would like to help in projects.

In the workshop we were asked to get into a group, given four questions and answer them briefly. Here are my group's responses and suggestions:

1. Why do we care about housing in the CRD region anyway? Savings in disposable income; a basic human need, pride of ownership and changes in attitude, self-esteem – a paradigm shift; fosters better community health, safety, entrepreneurship, family stability, security and a vibrant community.

2. Given that the chances are slight that government will provide new assisted housing, what is possible and what supports are needed? Subsidies, tax changes and credits and partnerships of all levels of government, major businesses and financial institutions; reduction of operating costs and reduce capital project cost down; help financing mortgages and marketable affordable home-buyers programs; infill housing, educating higher housing density; senior government change legislation and regulatory issues; transportation, zoning and ideal prototype projects; and encourage municipalities to work together and be creative and flexible.

3. What could HAP do or change to get to the solutions? Assist in affordability partnerships; tax credits and subsidies; educate local and social enterprises about partnerships and build a strong business case.

4. Use the Esquimalt seniors housing project as an example. What will you do the next two weeks/months/years to add to the solutions? Tax credits, incentives, leverage and cutting red tape; support partnerships and leadership; encourage municipalities to be creative and flexible; create a communication plan and encourage feedback.

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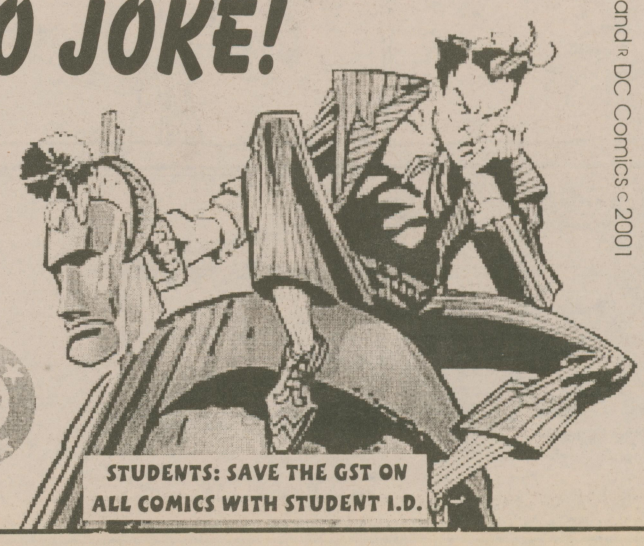

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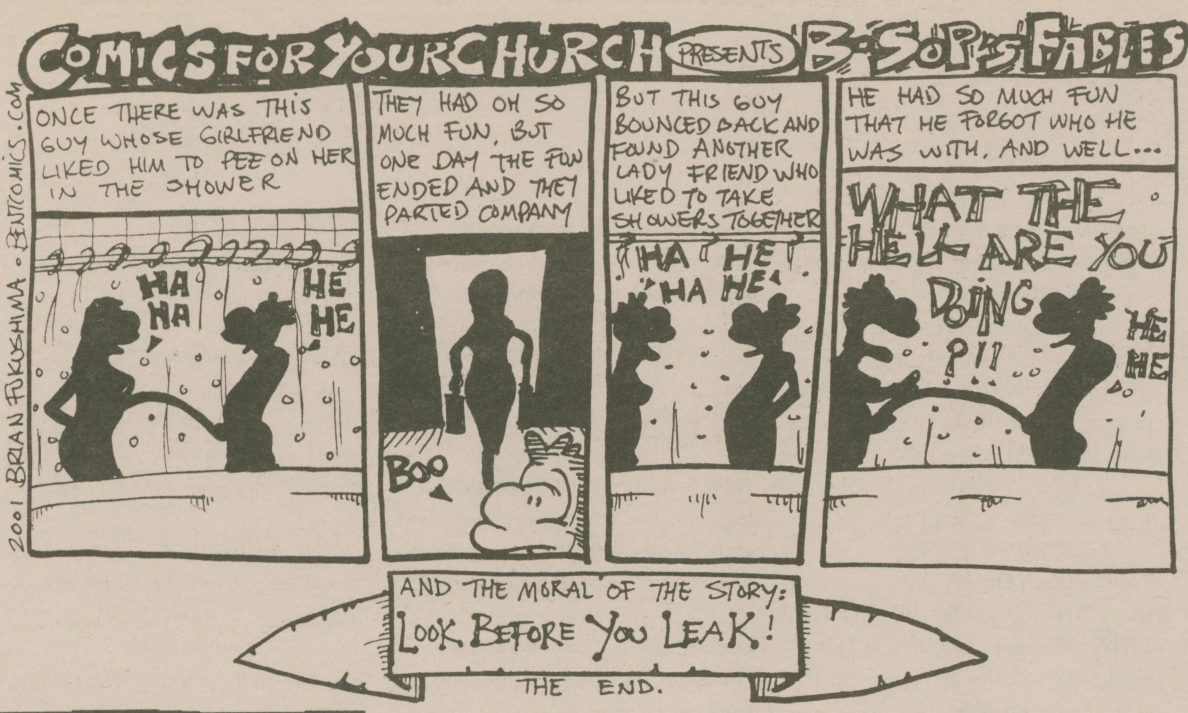
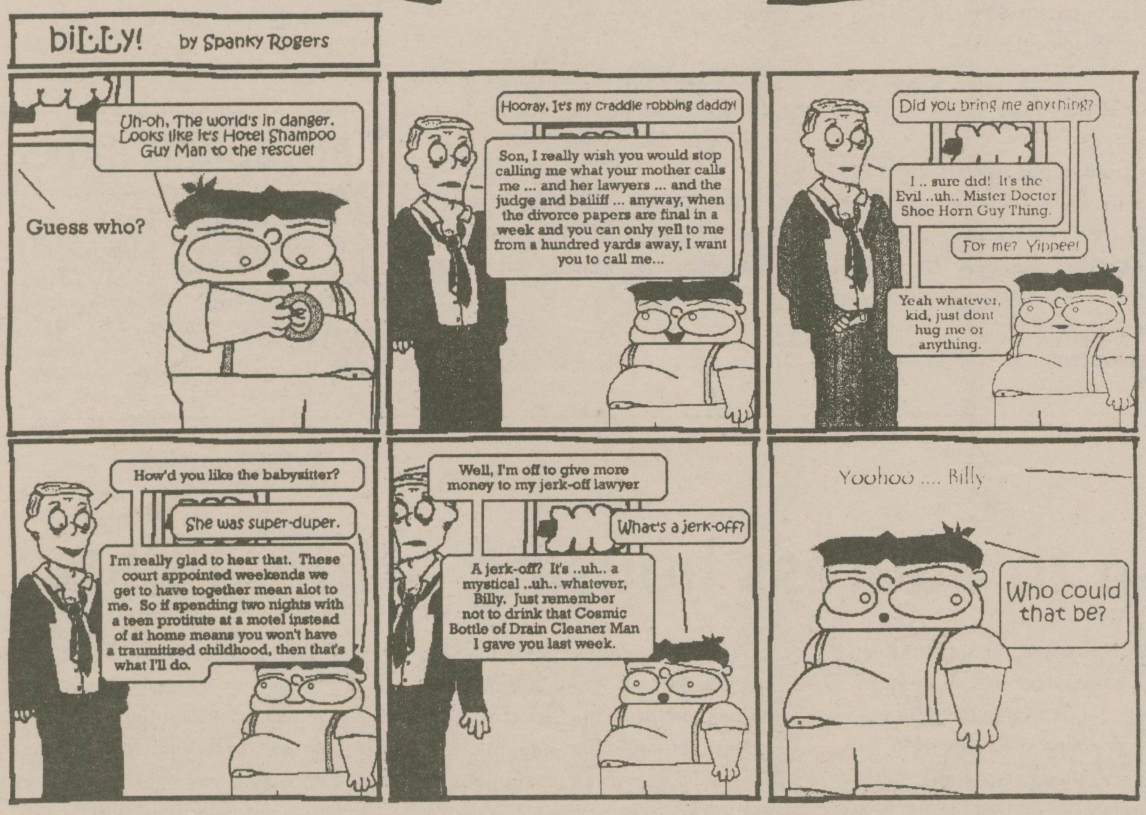
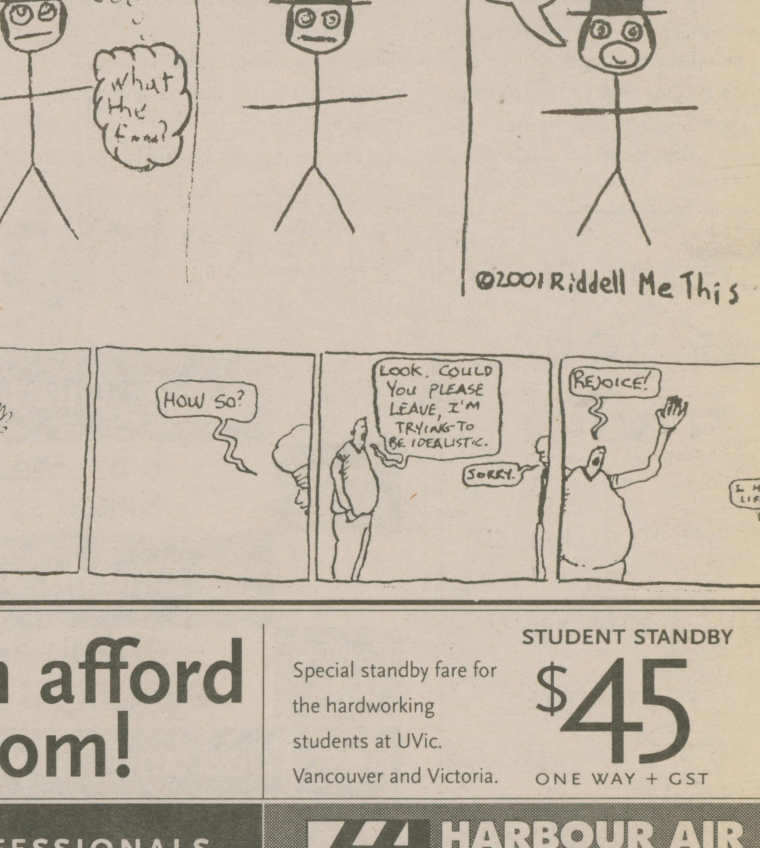
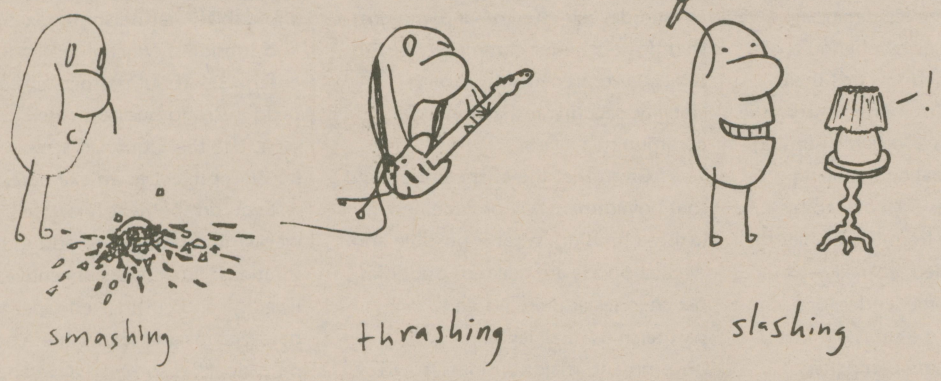

COMICS FOR YOUR CHURCH PRESENTS B-SOPS FABLES
ONCE THERE WAS THIS GUY WHOSE GIRLFRIEND LIKED HIM TO PEE ON HER IN THE SHOWER
HA HA
HE HE
THEY HAD OH SO MUCH FUN, BUT ONE DAY THE FUN ENDED AND THEY PARTED COMPANY
Boo
BUT THIS GUY BOUNCED BACK AND FOUND ANOTHER LADY FRIEND WHO LIKED TO TAKE SHOWERS TOGETHER
HA HE HA HE
HE HAD SO MUCH FUN THAT HE FORGOT WHO HE WAS WITH, AND WELL...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!!
HE HE
2001 BRIAN FUKUSHIMA - BENTCOMICS.COM
AND THE MORAL OF THE STORY:
LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAK!
THE END.

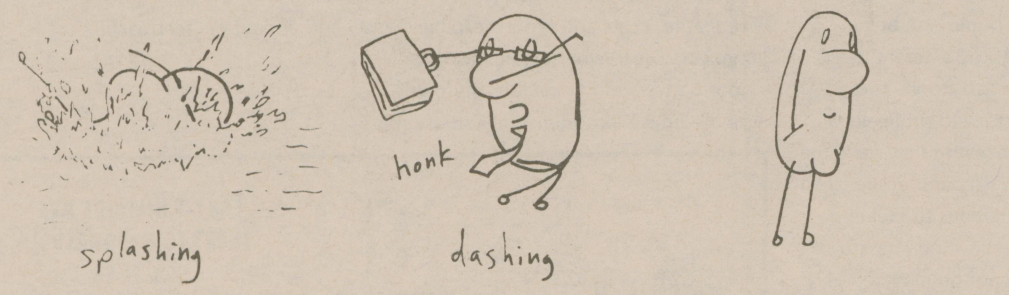

billy! by Spanky Rogers
Uh-oh. The world's in danger. Looks like it's Hotel Shampoo Guy Man to the rescue!
Guess who?
Hooray, it's my craddle robbing daddy!
Son, I really wish you would stop calling me what your mother calls me ... and her lawyers ... and the judge and bailiff ... anyway, when the divorce papers are final in a week and you can only yell to me from a hundred yards away, I want you to call me...
Did you bring me anything?
I .. sure did! It's the Evil ..uh.. Mister Doctor Shoe Horn Guy Thing.
For me? Yippee!
Yeah whatever, kid, just dont hug me or anything.
How'd you like the babysitter?
She was super-duper.
I'm really glad to hear that. These court appointed weekends we get to have together mean alot to me. So if spending two nights with a teen protitute at a motel instead of at home means you won't have a traumitized childhood, then that's what I'll do.
Well, I'm off to give more money to my jerk-off lawyer
What's a jerk-off?
A jerk-off? It's ..uh.. a mystical ..uh.. whatever, Billy. Just remember not to drink that Cosmic Bottle of Drain Cleaner Man I gave you last week.
Yoohoo .... Billy
Who could that be?

DigiRoyal

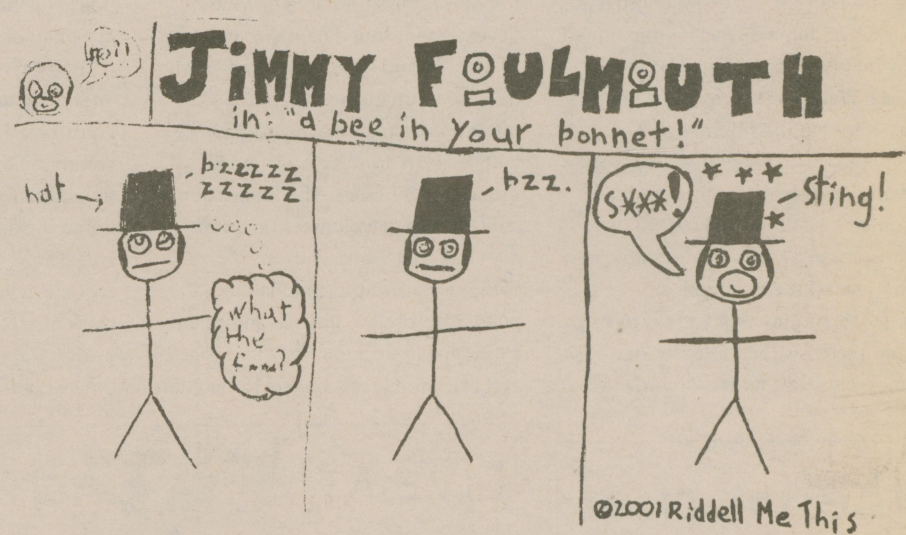

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SAM AND FUZZY PART 2
©2001 BY SAM LOGAN
SAM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M SHAVING, FUZZY. WHAT THE HELL DOES IT LOOK LIKE I'M DOING?!?
LISTEN, SAM. IF WE'RE GOING TO SELL THIS DOCUMENTARY, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SPICE IT UP A BIT!
SPICE IT UP?
YEAH! WE NEED ACTION! EXCITEMENT! SEX! WHAT WE HAVE NOW COULDN'T COMPETE WITH A VIDEO OF PAINT DRYING.
OK, SO WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
WELL, YOU COULD SHAVE WITH THIS, FOR STARTERS.
YAAAHHH!!
VRUM
SLOW
esrever@eudoramail.com

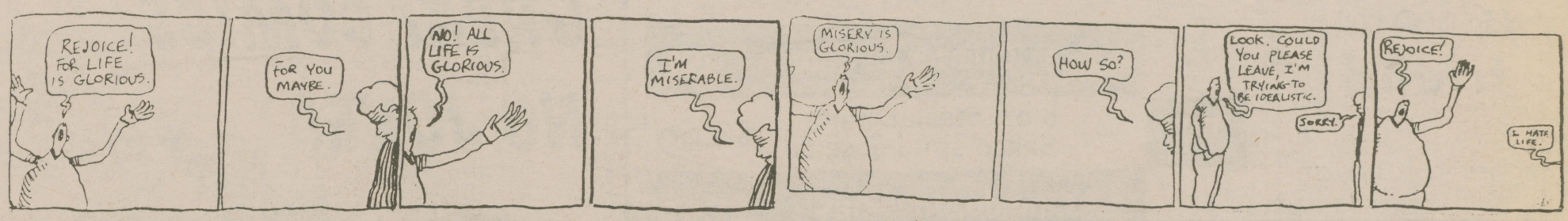
Goombas @ martlet.org

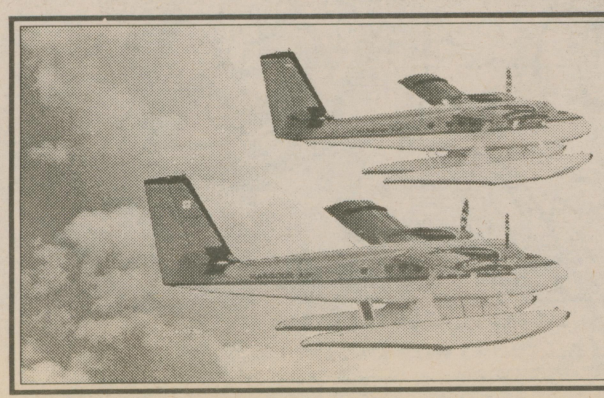




The best things in life are free, if you're a fucking thief bth







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